

## Theology for Beginners – Redemption and Incarnation

### Overview

We continue our study of Theology with the subjects of redemption and incarnation. These tenets of our faith go hand-in-hand. Our redemption from sins and death could not happen until God came amongst us.

### The Incarnation

The word Incarnation is derived from the Latin word “*caro*” – meaning flesh. God became man to affect the redemption of the world. It is seen that God was so devoted and loving of His creation as to enter totally into mankind – and become one like us. God became man – not the Trinity – but the second person of the Trinity.

The opening words of the Gospel of John (1:1-14) proclaims, “*In the beginning was the Word...and the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...*” His mother was Mary whose husband was Joseph and who was like a father to Jesus. The true Father of Jesus is God – since he had no human father – only a human mother.

Keep in mind that God became man – not that man became God. His conception was virginal but He grew in the womb of Mary like any other child. Scriptures tell us very little about His life until He reaches 30 years of age. Scriptures records some of His accounts as He begins His ministry at Cana - ending His ministry on a cross on Golgotha. However, it really did not end there – as Jesus defied death and was resurrected on the third day.

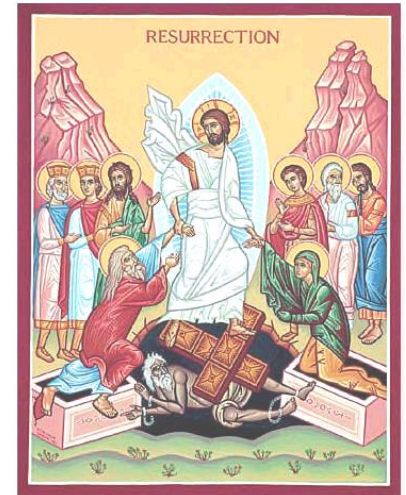
Jesus is both Man and God having two natures. Whether Jesus was doing the things of God or of man - it was always the person doing them. Every single action of Jesus was the action of the second person of the Trinity. This provides us with an answer to a question often raised. “What happened to the Universe while God was dead?” In death, a person must

die and only one person hung on the cross. God the Son died in His human nature. The 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Trinity did not of course die – as He is the divine nature that cannot know death.

*Refer to the Catechism paragraphs 422-682 for a more extensive discussion.*

### Redemption

During His final hours, He had a last Passover meal with His apostles. There Jesus instituted the celebration of the Eucharist and told the apostles He would be with them until the end of time. The next day He



gave up His life on a cross and became the ultimate sacrifice for the sins on mankind. This is the source of our salvation or redemption.

Through Original Sin, mankind lost its union with God. God could have written off mankind as a failure or simply forgiven the sin. However, God chose that the sin committed in human nature should be expiated through human nature. This sacrifice became what was foreshadowed by the earlier Jewish animal sacrifice.

Jesus was the Lamb of God and the only one capable of full satisfaction for the sins of man, because His act had infinite value. In **CCC #655**, we see where Christ becomes the principle and source of our own resurrection – giving us new life.

*CCC# refers to the Catechism paragraphs*