

2. The Humanity of Christ

a. Meaning of the term

The true humanity of Christ, expressed in the creeds by the words "very man," is the second element of the doctrine of the Person of Christ. What does "true humanity" mean?

The term "true humanity" includes (at least) four ideas:

(1) that Jesus has the nature of humanity, with all of the human faculties and powers

(2) that Jesus has both a true human body and a true human soul-spirit

(3) that Jesus is subject to all the limitations of created, finite humanity

(4) but not that Jesus was guilty of sin, or corrupted by sin, or ever committed an act of sin

b. Scriptures pertinent to the doctrine

Matt. 1:1 -- "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham."

This scripture speaks to us of Christ's human lineage. He is a descendant of Abraham, through David.

Romans 1:3 -- "concerning His Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh"

This scripture explicitly declares that Christ is David's physical descendant not merely his legal or spiritual descendant or heir.

Galatians 4:4 -- "But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law."

This scripture speaks to us of Christ's conception in and birth from a human mother.

Matt. 1:18 21, 24-25 -- "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit, and Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.' "

"and Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife; and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus."

These scriptures speak to us of the Holy Spirit's supernatural impregnation and fertilization of an egg from Mary who was yet a virgin; and of the natural development of that embryo through all the normal stages of fetal growth until the time of Jesus' birth.