

Introduction:

- "I've always wanted to be somebody, but I see now I should have been more specific."
- "While walking through the forest one day, a man found a young eagle who had fallen out of his nest. He took it home and put it in his barnyard where it soon learned to eat and behave like the chickens. One day a naturalist passed by the farm and asked why it was that the king of all birds should be confined to live in the barnyard with the chickens. The farmer replied that since he had given it chicken feed and trained it to be a chicken, it had never learned to fly. Since it now behaved as the chickens, it was no longer an eagle." "Still it has the heart of an eagle," replied the naturalist, "and can surely be taught to fly." He lifted the eagle toward the sky and said, "You belong to the sky and not to the earth. Stretch forth your wings and fly." The eagle, however, was confused. He did not know who he was, and seeing the chickens eating their food, he jumped down to be with them again. The naturalist took the bird to the roof of the house and urged him again, saying, "You are an eagle. Stretch forth your wings and fly." But the eagle was afraid of his unknown self and world and jumped down once more for the chicken food. Finally the naturalist took the eagle out of the barnyard to a high mountain. There he held the king of the birds high above him and encouraged him again, saying, "You are an eagle. You belong to the sky. Stretch forth your wings and fly." The eagle looked around, back towards the barnyard and up to the sky. Then the naturalist lifted him straight towards the sun and it happened that the eagle began to tremble. Slowly he stretched his wings, and with a triumphant cry, soared away into the heavens. It may be that the eagle still remembers the chickens with nostalgia. It may even be that he occasionally revisits the barnyard. But as far as anyone knows, he has never returned to lead the life of a chicken.
- Websters 1828 Dictionary:
 - Identity - the condition of being the same with something described or asserted; sameness of essential or generic character in different instances.
 - Identification - The act of making or proving to be the same.
 - The set of characteristics by which a person or thing is definitively recognizable or known.

I. Christ Identifies With Us, The Incarnation

- A. The most striking miracle of creation is the Incarnation. What does incarnation mean? It is the bringing together of Deity and humanity. God taking the form of flesh. If man was to be redeemed the incarnation was inevitable. It had to happen. Much is said about our identity in Christ but little is said about Christ identifying with us.
1. Man was spiritually dead, a child of Satan, without any way to approach God.
 2. The incarnation would provide a way for the Incarnate One to stand as man mediator.
I looked for a man to stand in the gap but could find none. Ezk 22:30
 3. Being equal with God on one hand and united with man on the other could bring the two together, thus closing the gap between God and man.

4. By becoming incarnate Jesus could assume the obligations of human treason and pay the price thereof. He could satisfy the justice of God so that man would be free of Satan's authority and given the right to receive the nature of God.
- B. The Incarnate One could not be born by natural birth. To have deity to enter a man did nothing to deal with the death (the nature of Satan) that had entered into all men through the sin of one man, Adam. That is what we call spiritual death.
1. *"When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned."* (Romans 5:12, NLT)
 2. *"Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone,..."* (Romans 5:18, NLT) The Spirit had just entered a man or child, He would have been a child of Satan with God Him. That would have been incarnation.
 3. If God could have eradicated spiritual death in one man or the whole human race, that would have been an injustice to Satan and to God, for the penalty of sin had not been paid.
 4. The Redeemer must be One over which Satan had no legal claim or authority. Thus a baby born of a virgin!
- C. Born of a Virgin.
1. The first promise: *"And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."* (Genesis 3:15, NLT) The Father in His wisdom realizes that our need can only be met by the Incarnation of His Son. So the prophetic word of Son that would be born of a woman to crush the serpents head.
 2. *"Then Isaiah said, 'Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn't it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well? All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').'"* (Isaiah 7:13-14, NLT)
 - a) Born of the House of David.
 - b) It will be a sign, a virgin will give birth. Adoni! (Majestic power working God!) will do it.
 - c) He will be called Immanuel - God with us! Or the Incarnation!
 - d) This is a mystery!!! See also Luke 1:31-36
 - e) The child is conceived by the work of the Holy Spirit. It is supernatural birth! She is married to Joseph of the House of David
 - f) The God man must be born of woman, a virgin so that He is not a child of Satan or belonging to Satan.
 3. *"I, the Lord, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness. I will take you by the hand and guard you, and I will give you to my people, Israel, as a symbol of my covenant with them. And you will be a light to guide the nations."* (Isaiah 42:6, NLT) Adam was created. The rest of the human race was generated by natural birth. But this child is formed by supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. (See also Phil. 2:6-8) *made in the likeness of men... found in fashion as a man.*

4. God is identifying with humanity through His Son Jesus! *"That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer."* (Hebrews 10:5, NLT)
5. All of this is based on the fact that Jesus was the Pre-existent Christ.
 - a) 17 times in John it is declared that Jesus was sent by the Father.
 - b) The entire Gospel of John is based upon the fact that Jesus had a pre-existent relationship with the Father.
 - c) Micah 5:2; Gen 1:26; Heb 1:2; Phil 2:6; Col 1:15

II. Christ Identifies With Us In His Crucifixion And Death

- A. The object of the incarnation was that man might be, redeemed, given the right to become a child of God. John 1:12. And we could only do that by receiving the nature of God. *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* (2 Cor 5:21, NKJV) Man's redemption is a legal act of God. It is based on the law of identification.
 1. Identification has two parts. It includes our identification with Adam and our identification with Christ.
 2. When a believer has grasped this, the foundation for the renewing of his mind has been laid.
 - a) The disciple saw it all—crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection and ascension through their physical senses. This gave them no insight into the spiritual ramifications of the events.
 - b) They needed revelation! They needed revelation to grasp what they were being given. *"These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual."* (1 Corinthians 2:13, NKJV) When Pentecost came and the Holy Spirit was given He would guide them and us into all truth.
- B. Jesus had to identify with Adam's sin. Ro 5:12-21. Death came to all men, not just physical but spiritual (the nature of Satan entered humanity). This death reigned over man through Adam's treason. Because of identification with Adam all men were made sinners.
 1. There are two sides of the fall of Adam. The legal side is what Satan did to us in Adam and the spiritual is what he does in us when by nature we are children of wrath. Therefore...
 2. Redemption has two sides in Christ. The legal side is what God did for us in Christ. The spiritual is what God does in us in Christ.
 3. We were not in the garden but legally we were so we are identified (same) with Adam. In Redemption we are redeemed completely from every result of Adam's sin. This is the message of Romans 5:12-21.
- C. Christ identifies with our humanity. This takes place in the incarnation. But because He did not sin he could not identify with our sinful nature. Therefore His identification with the spirit nature was during His crucifixion, the time/reason He came into the world. *"Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his*

troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all." (Isaiah 53:4-6, NLT) This was His identification with Man's sin nature. Paul said it this way in 1 Cor 5:21 *God made Him to become sin for us.*

1. In the mind of God it was not Christ who hung on the cross it was the human race! That is why all of us can say, *"I was crucified with Christ..."* Gal 2:20 In the garden we were not vitally there with Adam but we were legally. In the same way we were not vitally on the cross with Christ but legally we were. This identification with Christ was just as complete as it was with Adam!
2. Once Christ identifies with humanity completely redemption begins.
 - a) He paid man's penalty. The judgement that was ours fell upon Him. He died because of our judgment and we died with Him. Ps 88 gives us the picture of a righteous man in hell. Jesus fully identified with us. Acts 2:24-28.
 - b) He identified so fully that He needed justified. *"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory."* (1 Timothy 3:16, NKJV)
 - c) He had to be begotten of God. *"For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"?"* (Hebrews 1:5, NKJV) *"God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'"* (Acts 13:33, NKJV)
 - d) Jesus, when the penalty had been paid had to pass from death unto life just as a man because He had identified with our death. Thus He conquered Satan! ***"We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him."*** (Romans 6:9, NLT)
 - e) *"He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross."* (Colossians 2:14, NLT)

Conclusion:

- The object of the incarnation was redemption!
- Jesus went to great lengths to obtain for us such a great salvation.
- Know who you are in Christ!