

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

Article 4, EFCA Statement of Faith

- I. God incarnate
- II. Fully God
- III. Fully man
- IV. One Person in two natures
- V. Israel's promised Messiah
- VI. Conceived through the Holy Spirit, born of virgin Mary, lived a sinless life
- VII. Crucified
- VIII. Arose bodily from the dead
- IX. Ascended into heaven
- X. Sits at the right hand of God, our High Priest and Advocate

“But what about you?” Jesus asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

-Matthew 16:15-16

- I. **God Incarnate** – literally “God in flesh,” Jesus’ coming to earth and becoming a man when He was born in Bethlehem. (John 1:14)
- II. **Fully God** - the deity of Jesus.
 - a. John 1:1-3 – according to the context, the Word is Jesus.
 - i. As the Word, Jesus reveals God to us.
 - ii. He has always existed with the Father.
 - iii. He created the universe.
 - iv. And He is identified as God.
 - b. Philippians 2:5-6
 - i. To be in very nature God means to possess all the same essential attributes of deity.
 - ii. According to this verse, Jesus was God before He was man.

c. John 10:30-31

- i.** Jesus is claiming the deepest unity with God the Father. The Jews understood that He was claiming to be God and wanted to kill Him for blasphemy.

d. Hebrews 1:2-3, 8

- i.** Jesus is called the Son of God, the Creator and Sustainer of the world, and the exact imprint of who God is.

e. Colossians 2:9

- i.** In the person of Jesus, the fullness of God lives in bodily form.

III. Fully man - the humanity of Jesus.

- a.** 1 Timothy 2:5
- b.** John 9:11
- c.** 1 John 4:2
- d.** Luke 2:40, 52
- e.** Matthew 4:2
- f.** John 11:35
- g.** John 19:33, 39-42

IV. One Person in Two Natures

- a. Term: Hypostatic Union** - The human and divine natures of Jesus Christ were united in one person.

b. Four Essentials:

- i.** Fully God (divine attributes)
- ii.** Fully Man (body, natural limitations)
- iii.** United in One person
- iv.** Each nature (deity and humanity) are separate

V. Israel's Promised Messiah

- a.** Genesis 3:14-14, 12:1-3, 49:8-12; 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Matthew 1:1, 17; Luke 4:16-22, 24:25-27; John 1:41, 4:25-26; Acts 2:36, 13:23; Romans 1:2-4; 2 Timothy 2:8

- b. Messiah means “anointed one.”
- c. Jesus is the complete fulfillment of God’s revelation and salvation built on the Law and the Prophets.

VI. Conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life:

- a. The Bible teaches that Mary was a virgin when she became pregnant with Jesus and remained a virgin until she gave birth to him.
 - i. Matthew 1:18 – “...*before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.*”
 - ii. Matthew 1:24-25 – “When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, *but knew her not* until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.”
 - iii. Luke 1:34-35 – “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “*since I am a virgin?*” The angel answered, “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.*”

b. The Point:

- i. Jesus is God _____, because His birth was miraculous (Luke 1:35)
- ii. Jesus is sinless _____, because he had no human father and was born without a sinful nature. (Romans 5:12-21)
- iii. Jesus is human _____, because He was born of a woman. (Galatians 4:4)

VII. Crucified

- a. Jesus’ death was necessary because the penalty _____ of sin had to be paid. God’s justice _____ demands that sin be punished, but His love _____ provided a substitute for us. Jesus Christ, God’s Son, died in our place to pay the penalty we owed because of our sin.
 - i. John 1:29
 - ii. Hebrews 9:27-28
 - iii. 1 Peter 2:24
 - iv. 1 Peter 3:18

v. Mark 10:45

VIII. Arose Bodily from the Dead

a. **Term:** Resurrection

b. **Significance:**

- i. Proves Jesus is God and that His work on the cross was effective. (Romans 1:4)
- ii. Establishes Jesus' authority. (Matthew 28:6)
- iii. Unites believers with Jesus in death and resurrection that they may triumph over sin and temptation, participate in spiritual fellowship with one another, and complete the ministry God has equipped them to complete. (Romans 6:1-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-20; 15:54-56; Ephesians 2:14-16)
- iv. Guarantees believers' eternal bodily resurrection and secures our hope. (John 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22)
- v. Essential to the message of the gospel. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 10:9)

c. **Evidence of the resurrection**

i. The Empty Tomb

1. Jesus' tomb had to be empty or else His body would have been paraded through the streets of Jerusalem to silence His followers. (Acts 2:29-32)

ii. Appearance of Jesus after his death

1. Many eyewitnesses' lives were radically transformed after seeing the risen Christ. (Luke 24:31-35; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

IX. Ascended into heaven

a. Forty days after his resurrection Jesus was taken up into heaven and will return to earth in the same way:

- i. Acts 1:9-11 – “After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said,

“why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

X. Sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate:

- a.** Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God indicating:
 - i.** A completed task or finished job.
 - ii.** A sovereign or royal authority.

Mark 16:19; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22

- b.** He is now serving in the sanctuary of the true heavenly tabernacle interceding for our sins as our High Priest. (Hebrews 8:1-2)
- c.** No longer does God demand a human priest to enter the holy of holies on behalf of the people; no longer are animal sacrifices needed to restore the relationship between fallen humanity and God, now each individual may approach God with confidence through Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 10:19-22)