

Jesus: God Incarnate

The Life Changed by Christ (1 Jn. 4:1-6)

July 19, 2015, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church

Testing the spirits “in the sense of holding up individuals, churches, teachings, and other things to the light of God’s word to examine it and determine what spirit is behind it.”¹

VBC Statements of Faith about Jesus and His work:

4. 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.

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

What does “incarnate” mean?

1 Jn. 4:1,2 – Jesus “came in the flesh”

“came” = from where? (Jn. 1:1)

“in the flesh” = He put on human flesh (“incarnate”)
(Phil. 2:5-8)

So what? What does it really matter?

- Heb. 4:14-16

- Because Jesus was fully man...
 - He is not aloof
 - He has been in our shoes

¹ This is Pastor’s suggested interpretation of the term “spirits.” There are other ideas of what is in view with “spirits,” but this seems the easiest in light of what is being conveyed here.

- Because Jesus is fully God...
 - We approach “the throne of grace” confidently

- Rom. 13:12-14
 - He gives us the power to overcome the flesh (as He did)

- 1 Jn. 4:1-6 We MUST “test the spirits”
 - Those not from God won’t listen to us (v. 6)

 - Jesus must have “come in the flesh” (been fully man) from God (been fully God) or our lives cannot be transformed by Him. We must embrace this so our lives *can* be transformed.