



Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem ©
* *Knights of Malta* *

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Chancellor's Update

Who Is Jesus Christ? – The Incarnate Word – Again Revisited

It is again December, the Christmas season! Over the past decade we have discussed “Who Is Jesus.” Again we will discuss “Who Is Jesus” in December 2011. Why – because of His importance, because of the many inquires we get, and mainly this year because of the many errors people are expressing to us in reference to historical events past and present concerning the Middle East and the State of Israel. There are even some Christians who are confused and think that Christ, the Son of God, is subordinate to God, the Father.

Over the past decade we presented the subject matter from Scripture, this time I will try my best to explain it by a simple question and answer approach. This is necessary background information to understand the Pope’s address quoted below.

Before we ask and answer any questions, we must first define the meaning of words:

Jesus, the name given by the Angel Gabriel to Mary, means Savior.

Christ means the Messiah – the Anointed One (It is a title, not a surname).

Q. Who is Jesus? Answer. - He is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Son of God, Who was made man for us. He is true God and true Man (this is known as the Hypostatic Union). Simple, isn’t it? Perhaps not, people today (like the Manichaeans and Arians of old) are confusing **His Person** with **His Nature**. I will explain.

Q. Who is God the Father? Answer. - The First Person of the Blessed Trinity.

Q. Who is God the Holy Spirit? Answer. - The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

Notice – If someone should ask you, “Who are you?”, you answer Joe or Mary, etc. If asked “What are you?”, you would answer, “I am a human being composed of body and rational soul.” Therefore, when it comes to “**Who** is Jesus Christ?” He is the Second person of the Blessed Trinity. **What** is Jesus Christ? He is a God-Man (Hypostatic Union). Again **notice** – I did not ask you for your religion, nationality or race. Would you attribute a nationality or race to God the Father or God the Holy Ghost (Spirit)? Therefore, Jesus Christ is a Divine Person with two Natures – One Divine, the other Human. Jesus is **NOT a human person**. Therefore, Jesus Christ is not a Christian (one who follows Christ), nor is He a Jew (one who awaits the Messiah - He is the Messiah). He is not white, black, red or yellow or combinations of them (color is an accident to matter); that is why in art each culture portrays Jesus Christ in its own cultural setting. Between today’s modern Manichaeans (those who believe Jesus to be only divine) and today’s Arians (those who believe Jesus to be only man) they have created a mess in trying to resolve political problems in the Middle East. Because of these two positions, there are those in the world who believe that the State of Israel is the ancient nation that God willed for His people. Therefore, at all and any cost the State of Israel must be preserved and saved. In reality the New Testament opens to all men salvation through Jesus Christ (See Updates December 2000, 2001,

2002, 2003, 2005 – see website in footer). The law of prayer is the law of belief. The way you think is the way you live. We hope “all men of good will” will follow the star once again to Bethlehem and find the Savior of the world. Below is the Pope’s modern version of the above.

On Our Lady's Question to Gabriel

“The Virginity of Mary and the Divinity of Jesus are Reciprocally Guaranteed”

Dear brothers and sisters!

On this Fourth and last Sunday of Advent this year the liturgy presents us with the account of the angel's announcement to Mary. Contemplating the wondrous image of the Holy Virgin in the moment in which she receives the divine message and gives her answer, we are enlightened within by the always-new light of truth that shines forth from that mystery. For a brief moment I would like to reflect in particular on the importance of Mary's virginity, of the fact that she conceived Jesus remaining a virgin.

In the background of the event of Nazareth there is the prophecy of Isaiah: "Behold, the virgin will conceive and bear a son, who will be called Emmanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). This ancient promise found an overflowing fulfillment in the Incarnation of the Son of God. In fact, not only did the virgin conceive but she did so by the power of the Holy Spirit, that is, by the power of God himself. The human being who begins to live in her womb takes flesh from Mary, but his existence comes totally from God. He is fully man, made from the earth -- to use a biblical symbol -- but comes from above, from heaven. That Mary conceives while remaining a virgin is essential for knowing Jesus and for our faith, because it shows that the initiative is God's and above all it reveals who it is that is conceived. As the Gospel says: "For this reason he who will be born will be holy and will be called Son of God" (Luke 1:35). In this sense, the virginity of Mary and the divinity of Jesus are reciprocally guaranteed.

This is why the one question that Mary, "greatly disturbed," asks the angel is so important: "How can this be since I do not know man?" (Luke 1:34). In her simplicity Mary is very wise: She does not doubt God's power, but wants to understand his will better so that she can completely conform to this will. Mary is infinitely surpassed by the mystery and yet, she perfectly occupies the post that she is assigned at its center. Her heart and her mind are completely humble, and, precisely because of her singular humility, God awaits this young woman's "yes" to realize his design. He respects her freedom. Mary's "yes" implies both maternity and virginity, and it desires that everything in her is for God's glory, and that the Son whom she will bear will be wholly the gift of grace.

Dear friends, Mary's virginity is unique and unrepeatable, but its spiritual significance regards every Christian. It, in substance, is linked to faith: In fact, those who deeply trust in the love of God welcome Jesus within themselves, his divine life, through the action of the Holy Spirit. This is the mystery of Christmas! I hope that you will all live it with profound joy.

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