

INCARNATION

Christianity
Beliefs

Incarnation

'becoming flesh'. The event when the **Son of God**, became flesh – Jesus Christ

Jesus is fully God

Jesus is divine - **he is God**. This is important because only God can save us from our sin. Jesus was able to **control nature** (e.g. calming the storm) **heal** people (e.g. the man with leprosy) and **resurrect the dead** (e.g. Lazarus). He himself was resurrected by God.

Jesus is fully man

Jesus is **human**. This is important because he died in our place – he was our **substitute**. Jesus had a **natural birth**. He had brothers and sisters and a job (he was a carpenter). He **got tired** and showed human emotions. He **died** a human death.

Blasphemy

A religious offense: speaking wrongly of God (including claiming to be him)

The **Word** became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and **only Son**, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the **Son of the Blessed One?**" ..."I am" said Jesus.

Mark 14:61-62

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, **the Son of God**, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31

When Jesus was baptised a voice from Heaven said "**You are my son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased.**"

Mark 1:11

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be **pregnant through the Holy Spirit**.

Matthew 1:18

Possible Questions

Explain two beliefs about the incarnation.

Jesus was fully God. Jesus was fully man

Explain two ways that the incarnation **influences** Christians today.

The fact that he is fully God **influences** Christians, To **pray** to him, he has omnipotent power and can change situations, To **worship** him, he truly is God and worthy of worship, To **trust** him – God cannot lie, To **follow** him – His commands are good and true, To evangelise – he alone has the power to save

"The incarnation is the most important Christian belief." Evaluate

Yes – Jesus was our **substitute**. He **knows what it means to be human**.

No the crucifixion is more important – **atonement**. No the resurrection is more important – **shows that He truly was God**.

"Jesus was fully God." Evaluate & "Jesus was fully human." Evaluate

Man – He got tired, had a **normal birth** and family and **job**. He had **emotions**. He **died**

God – he could perform **miracles, know the future, rose from the dead**

"Jesus had to be God" Evaluate

Yes – to forgive sin

No – to be our **substitute** – Jews didn't believe the Messiah would be divine

"It doesn't matter whether or not Jesus was God – what matters is what he taught and did." Evaluate.

Yes – his **teaching** eg "love your neighbour/ the good Samaritan" was **world-changing**

No – his death on the cross achieved **atonement** for the sins of the world/ actions communicate love e.g. healing