

***Romans***  
***Message Six***  
***Made of the seed of David***  
***Rom 1:1-7***

1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,  
2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)  
3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David  
according to the flesh;  
4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the  
resurrection from the dead:  
5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all  
nations, for his name:  
6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:  
7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from  
God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. KJV

**Introduction:**

In the last message we considered Paul's affirmation of the Trinity in this opening text and debunked the idea of the Father as remote and detached from His creatures, especially from man. We mentioned, I think, that the doctrine of the Trinity was one of the theological struggles of the early Church and which was not fully resolved until the Council of Nicea in 325 under the auspices of Constantine who was himself thought to be a denier of the doctrine, at least in the beginning. We doubt that Eusebius, who baptized him when he was nearing death, would have accepted his faith as genuine had he not finally accepted the Trinity. The conclusions of the Nicean Council forbade recognizing one as Christian who did not affirm the Godhead as Triune; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

There is one other doctrine which troubled the early church even more than that of the Trinity and it was the nature of Jesus Christ. Paul mentioned this doctrine as well as that of the Trinity in verses 3 & 4, "...made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness...."

Deity residing in a human body was an obstacle almost impossible to resolve for those who studied Jesus Christ in those early days. There are also some in our day who object to the Orthodox position of the Church concerning the Person of Jesus Christ. Those young men in white shirts riding bicycles who come to your door to discuss the scriptures do not believe in the Deity of Christ as the Church has always affirmed. Neither do the ladies who come around offering you literature from the Watchtower Society. Both belong to groups which sprung up during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and have been rejected by Orthodox Christianity ever since.

There were a number of groups formed in the First and Second Centuries that rejected either the Deity of Christ or His genuine humanity and we could spend the rest of the day talking about them but there were two that almost overthrew the Church in the early centuries: the Gnostics and the Arians. The Gnostics denied the reality of the human nature in Christ contending that He

merely “appeared to be human” but His body was some sort of apparition. They were heavily influenced by Greek philosophy which could not accept Deity in that near contact with a physical body. The Arians were likewise affected by Greek thought but they resolved the conflict by a complicated theology which saw Jesus as more than human but less than literal Deity.

The position of the apostles, however, as Paul affirmed here, was that He was fully human and fully Divine, actual Deity in literal human form.

Paul introduced the idea of ‘the gospel’ in v.1 and linked it to the Great Promises which God had given in the scriptures, v.2. Then, when he came to v.3, he identified the ‘Gospel,’ God’s Good News, as ‘concerning His Son.’ We must realize that Christianity, True and Real Christianity, is so vitally linked to this Person of Christ that it cannot exist in any genuine sense without Him.

As our culture moves toward universal inclusiveness on the one hand and formal atheism on the other, the Name that is Above Every Name is being heard less and less. As we hear those who represent themselves to be Christian leaders pray in public we notice that they seem to forget Jesus. They mention the Father and they invoke God but they do not want to offend Jews, Muslims and others so they leave Him out. It is as if they believe Jesus Christ and His Name to be optional, that we can all come together as worshipers of God and leave the Son unnoticed and unmentioned.

Such behavior would greatly grieve our forefathers in the Faith and I am sure it is grievous to the Holy Spirit Whose task it is to present the prayers of Christians to God. Surprisingly to many, I am sure, is that we are not promised that God will hear favorable all prayers supposedly directed toward Him. In fact, Jesus was very specific about how we are to petition God.

John 14:13-14

- 13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.  
14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. KJV

John 15:16

- 16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. KJV

John 16:23-27

- 23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.  
24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.  
25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.  
26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. KJV

There is no Christianity without Christ and there is no prayer without Him either. He is central and fundamental to the entire thing.

Can you try to imagine how the Father would react to a prayer presented to Him by someone so timid and ashamed that he would not even mention the Name of the Son when the entirety of the message God has sent from heaven has concerned that very Son?

Personally, I am convinced the Holy Spirit would not even carry such a prayer to the Father in the first place.

And then there is this.

Mark 8:38

38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. KJV

How frightening is that?

And, then Paul's words later in the First Chapter of Romans.

Rom 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. KJV

I have no unity with those who are ashamed of Christ. They are worse than infidels in my mind because they know better. Do not be like them, do not be ashamed of the Son of God.

Here in this text Paul laid out two enormous ideas and truths related to this Person concerning Whom the Gospel of God has been sent into the world through the scriptures of the prophets.

**- He was made of the seed of David according to the flesh,**

**- And, He was declared to be the Son of God by means of power according to the Spirit of Holiness by the Resurrection.**

**Although His conception in Mary's womb was the beginning of His human existence, it was not the beginning of Him.**

Let us remember that moment.

Luke 1:26-35

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David;

- and the virgin's name was Mary.
- 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.
- 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.
- 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.
- 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.
- 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:
- 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.
- 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?
- 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. KJV

The child was literally conceived in Mary's womb by the power of the Holy Spirit but that which was conceived was an actual Person to have a physical body and a human soul. But because He came here without a human father He had no sin nature and was not born under condemnation like every other person had always been.

At the same time, Paul told us about events which occurred in heaven just before that momentous conception. Before we go to Paul's words, I want you to remember something that he had said about the things that he taught.

Gal 1:11-12

- 11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.
- 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. KJV

I remind you of this lest you think that Paul was merely speculating about the events in heaven just before the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary.

Phil 2:5-8

- 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:
- 6 Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
- 7 but made himself nothing,  
taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.
- 8 And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to death-  
even death on a cross! (from New International Version)

‘In very nature God’... ‘equality with God’... ‘made Himself nothing’

The Eternal God, in an act that we cannot even begin to understand, literally undressed Himself as Deity and took the form of a man. He did not change Himself for He is by nature unchangeable, but as much as was possible He stepped down from His position as Deity to take human form. Deity compressed into a fertilized human egg! How vastly beyond our ability to comprehend!

The nature of that union between Deity and humanity has been a matter of discussion and debate for centuries but the resolved conclusion of the Church is that this was and is a Unique Being, 100% human and 100% God, existing in a Union that baffles human understanding.

And, then, we must notice that He was not merely some random human. The Promises that Paul mentioned in v.2 specified that he would be born to a specific bloodline of the human race.

- He would be a descendant of Abraham, “in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed...”

- And He would be of the tribe of Judah and of the family and lineage of David.

It is no error that we have two different genealogies listed for Jesus, one in Matthew and one in Luke. One defines the lineage of Joseph and the other that of Mary so that there is no disputing the actual and the formal bloodline of David arriving at the Person of Jesus Christ.

- He was, in His human nature, an heir to the throne of Israel and the Seed to Whom the promises to Abraham had been intended.

Every promise of the Jewish scriptures concerning the Messiah are realized in Him.

And with the destruction of the Jewish records by the Romans when the city of Jerusalem and the Temple were laid waste, no person today could ever verify his connection either to Abraham or to David.

But the question every human being who encounters this story must ask is WHY? \

Why did God come in this way?

What was the need?

Isn't this a bit of a drastic move for a solution to a human problem?

Weren't there Great and Powerful Angels who could do almost anything?

**One reason that God did His Work in this way was to reveal that unimaginable Love exists in the Universe.**

John 3:16-21

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
- 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.
- 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. KJV

It was Love as it exists in the Being of God, the Three Persons of the Divine Trinity, that motivated the sending of the Son in the way He was sent.

Love... undeserved and unearned, a product of the Sovereign Will of the Living God, not motivated by anything foreseen but bestowed as a gift of unmeasurable worth.

But, you notice in the reading of the fuller text that it was not promiscuous love bestowed on those who could never return it and willing to tolerate and give permission to wicked behavior. It was a love toward those who would ultimately come to Him in faith, loving and obeying truth.

It was not a socialist thing in which everyone gets the same things and all are guaranteed the same outcome, no, not at all... "he that believeth not is condemned already.... men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil... every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light." The recipients of this love are those who come to the light.

**He also came to demonstrate to us that the problem of sin is inside of us, it is not the fault of the environment.**

Jesus was born without a sin nature, it is true, but He was born into the same environment as every other person in Israel. All of them sinned but He did not though He was tempted just like them.

Heb 4:15

- 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. KJV

The temptations of Jesus were real. They were not a farce or a show. And He did not 'cheat' and use His Divine power to resist them. He took them as a man and turned away from them as a man. We have fallen victim to temptations time and again and we have done so not because the environment somehow overwhelms us but because of what we are on the inside.

So, the coming of Christ and His victory over all temptations reveals what we do not want to admit, the evil is in us and it is the reason we sin. We need help and we are not able to help ourselves. We need massive help else the Son of God would not have come to rescue us, He would have sent some inferior being. We are in a situation so desperate that none of the mighty angels nor even all of them together could have rescued us. Our situation is desperate.

And... we are unable to fix ourselves.

**Also by coming in the flesh as He did, Jesus proved that God will not soften the consequences of sin ever for His Own Son.**

At whatever point our sins were laid upon Him, Jesus became the object of the Justice and Wrath of God and suffered the Judgment upon Himself that Perfect Justice demanded. This is why He had to suffer so miserably and die so horribly. The penalty of sins was exacted upon Him as exactly as it will be upon every sinner who comes to appear before the Throne of God with his sins not forgiven.

God's Justice System is Perfect and no compromises are made with sin... ever... no matter what... even when God's Beloved Son is standing before Him bearing the guilt of others.

No 'slack' was allowed Him from His birth until that moment in the Garden. No permission was granted Him to break any of God's Laws and if God will not compromise for His Son, He will not for you either.

The scripture states that "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God" and it means that Judgment for sin is not and can never be a laughing matter.

I have personally heard people scoff at the idea of punishment for sin as if they thought facing God with guilt unpardoned would be a light thing, a cake-walk as it were but they have not listened closely to the consequences of His Wrath.

Matt 25:41

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: KJV

Nothing proves the unswerving determination of God to Judge all sin more than the fact that His Own Son came in the flesh and was dealt with as if He were a sinner because He took us to Himself and bore our sins in His Own Body.

Listen to the scriptures.

Isa 53:6

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. KJV

2 Cor 5:21

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. KJV

1 Peter 2:24

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. KJV

**And, finally, Jesus came to call us to reflect the Love with which He has loved us back to**

## **Himself and to one another.**

John 15:13-17

- 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.  
14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.  
15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.  
16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.  
17 These things I command you, that ye love one another. KJV

He manifested that which, by His Own definition, is the supreme manifestation of love... He laid down His life for those who do what He commands. He chose the original 12 and He has chosen us. The love we see in Him is the love we are to give to Him and we are to manifest that same love to one another.

There are indeed many elements to the Great Work that Christ did and some of it we may never comprehend but we can understand this, Through and Through it was and still is an act of Love.

There are many sins that the one commits who turns from God and refuses to commit himself to Christ but undoubtedly the greatest that will be counted is the sin against Love.

It is one thing to sin in resentment of Law or in defiance of Punishment but to sin against Love scrapes the very bottom of the barrel. Let us all labor not to be found in that condition when we stand before the Great Judgment Bar of God.