

## ***We Believe: in Jesus (Various Texts)***

### ***EFCA Statement of Faith, Article 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.

### ***God Incarnate***

- Jesus is God who took on humanity (John 1:14, 18; 1 John 4:2)
  - He is fully God (John 1:1; Col 2:9; John 20:28; Rom 9:5)
  - He is fully human (1 John 1:1-3; Heb 5:7-8)
    - And experienced all that being human entails (Luke 2:40, 52; Matt 4:2; John 11:35)

### ***Messiah***

- Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise of an eternal king (2 Sam 7:12-13; Gen. 3:14-20; 12:1-3; 49:8-12; Matt. 1:1, 17; Lk. 4:16-22; 24:25-27; Jn. 1:41; 4:25-26; Acts 2:36; 13:23,32; Rom 1:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:8,9)
  - Which is possible because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit & born of the virgin Mary (Luke 1:34-35; Matt 1:18)

### ***High Priest & Advocate***

- Because He is fully human, Jesus faced temptation like we do, but never sinned (Heb. 4:15; Rom. 5:19; Gal. 4:4,5; Matt. 3:15; Phil. 2:7,8)
  - And though He was innocent, He still died the death of the guilty (Mark 15:15; Dt. 21:23; Ps. 16:10; Matt. 27:26; Lk. 23:16; Jn. 19:16; Acts 2:27, 37)
- But because Jesus is fully God, death could not hold Him
  - He was raised bodily from the dead (Luke 24:39; Matt. 28:1-10; Mk. 16:1-8; Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:20, 44-45; Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5)
  - And then returned to heaven (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:6-11; Eph. 1:20; 4:8-10; 1 Tim. 3:16)
  - And reclaimed His rightful place at the right hand of the Father (Heb 1:3; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; 8:1; 10:12; 1 Pet. 3:22)
- All of this makes Jesus the perfect High Priest & Advocate for humanity
  - High Priest: One who represents people before God (Heb. 2:17; Heb. 3:1; 4:14; 6:20; 8:1)
  - Advocate: One who pleads one case before a judge (1 Jn. 2:1; Rom. 8: 34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24)

### ***So What?***

- Jesus is the God-man who perfectly represents both God and humanity
- Do we know Him for who He is?
- Next week, we will look at His work and what it accomplishes