

## The Inseparability of the Mystery of Redemption, Incarnation and Immaculate Conception

R.C.I.A. Class, Chapter 22  
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The Son of God became man to save all men from their sins. Therefore redemption is the motive for the Incarnation. Fallen man cannot redeem himself because of his imperfections. Redemption can only be accomplished through a perfect offering, which is Jesus, Son of God. Jesus offered Himself on the cross as a true and proper sacrifice for our sins. Jesus as Son of God, could both perform an act of mediation as man and receive it as God. This redemption is an entirely free deed and gift of divine LOVE and divine mercy. Redemption is the glorification of body and soul. Sin is in the blood of man; sin must be poured out. Christ poured out His sinless blood for our redemption.

Incarnation means to take on flesh. [the word became flesh] [John 1:1] The Holy Spirit is the Lord and giver of life. Jesus, Son of God was begotten by the Holy Spirit of the Father; NOT by carnal knowledge. [therefore free of sin] The incarnation of a divine person was necessary because God demands full atonement for our sins. The infinite insult to God, inherent in grievous sin, can only be counter-balanced by an infinite act of atonement. None but a divine person can perform such an atonement. Christ, by His sacrifice on the cross, has ransomed us and reconciled us with God. Atonement is to be understood as the satisfaction of a demand. Christ died for all mankind without exception. Jesus is not simply a descendant of humanity, [the house of David] but is equally a descendant of God. The incarnation asserts that Jesus is fully human and fully divine, NOT a mixture of the two. Each quality finds full expression in Him. The taking on of flesh by Jesus reestablishes the dignity of man and man becomes a new creation in Christ. This parallels the creation of Adam in the book of Genesis.

Immaculate Conception, declared a doctrine of the Church in December 1854, states that God gave Mary a unique gift of sanctifying grace. This preserved her from all sin, including original sin, and maintained her in the state of justification in her mother's womb. Justification is the original state of man before his sin of disobedience. Original sin is the loss of that sanctifying grace and the loss of the state of justification. Mary entered the world in the state of sanctifying grace. The cause of the Immaculate Conception is God the Holy Spirit who overshadowed her without the cooperation of man. A perfect vessel for His perfect Son. The final result is the motherhood of God. Mary remained a virgin before, during and after the birth of Jesus. She was free of personal sin all her life. The lesson learned from the life of Mary is obedience to the will of God. [be it done to me according to thy word]

The book of Genesis is about how God created Israel, not the world. The word of God created Israel and He created it perfect. Adam and Eve were created in the state of justification, without sin. They sinned and lost their justification. Mary and Eve were two people without sin. Eve sinned and became the cause of death; Mary became the cause of life. How could the Son of God become flesh in a less than perfect vessel? Adam and Eve the original creation; Jesus and Mary the new creation. The motherhood of Mary demands a likeness to her divine Son in body and soul. Jesus as true God and true Man. Luke's gospel sees Jesus as the second Adam to begin a new creation.

Upon her death, Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven in a glorified state because of her sinlessness. She did not have to wait for the final coming of Jesus. The destruction of the body after death is part of the punishment consequent to sin. Since Mary was sinless no corruption could take place. It is then fitting she could not be subjected to destruction after death. The power of God is awesome; for nothing is impossible to God. Mary is our unique mediator for those who love her Son. Mary is venerated but not worshiped! Only God is worshiped.

All these events are a special act of God's love called grace. Grace is a unique relationship with God. It acts in the soul as a supernatural influence to direct our free will. To be in the state of grace is to be a partaker in God's life. The sacraments of the Church are the channels of grace; to live in and with Jesus who established these outward signs of inward disposition. Grace is the source of salvation which is a privilege [not a right] which confers sanctification, dignity, honor, virtue and divine assistance coming from God to His people. Reprobation is the exclusion of those who refuse His grace by a free act of will. It is by God's sanctifying grace that we become justified. Justification is not possible without FAITH. The opposite of grace is enmity or hatred and ill will.

Redemption is the action of Jesus suffering and dying on the cross; making restitution for our offences of sinfulness and disobedience to the will of God. Salvation is the special unmerited gift of God to those who truly love Him as the result of the redemption offered by Jesus on the cross.

Footnotes:

- The parents of Mary are St. Anne and St. Joachim.
- Mary was sanctified in her mother's womb.
- Mary's parents were reputed to be a wealthy, childless couple. Joachim was refused the opportunity to offer sacrifice in the temple because they were childless. [considered to be rejection by God.] They prayed to God to remove the curse of sterility, promising to dedicate their child to the service of God. Their prayers were heard; an angel appeared to them confirming that she would conceive and the fruit of her womb would be blessed by the whole world. She gave birth to a daughter whom she called Miriam [Mary].
- St Anne was reputed to have two sisters; Salome and Elizabeth. [the mother of John the Baptist] St. Anne is the patroness of women in labor.