**II. Christology: The Person of Christ**

 **A. The Preexistence and Eternality of Christ**

1. The pre-existence of Christ refers to the fact that Christ existed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to His birth in Bethlehem.

2. When we speak of the eternality, we are referring to the fact that He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was.

3. Biblical Proof

 - John 1:1

 - John 8:58

 - Hebrews 1:8; Colossians 1:17; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6.

**B. The God-Man**

1. Let’s now define an important term:

- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Derived from the Latin *in carnis* (in the flesh). This doctrine teaches that in Jesus Christ, God became a human being without ceasing to be God (John 1:1, 14).

 Methodist theologian John Lawson defines the Incarnation as follows: “The Christian doctrine of the Incarnation is that the divine Son, who from all eternity is God in the same full sense that the Creator-Father and the Holy Spirit are divine, completely and permanently joined Himself to our genuine human nature, so as to form one real person who was at once both fully divine and fully human.”

Two important aspects of Lawson’s definition.

 - The word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ indicates Christ experienced all we have experienced - including the experience of being born.

 - Jesus’ birth was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from ours in that His mother conceived Him without the agency of a human father.

2. Theologians call this union of the two natures of Christ (His divine and human nature) the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**C. The Virgin Birth**

1. Genesis 3:15 – The first word.

 - This verse in known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: the first preaching of the gospel.

2. Isaiah 7:14 - The meaning of the birth.

 - The verse tells us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be with us.

3. Micah 5:2 - The Place of the Birth

 -- This verse speaks to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the fulfillments.

4. The New Testament Prophetic Fulfillment

 - Matthew 1:18, 22-25

 - Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7

 Matthew and Luke give their accounts from different perspectives. However, both agree that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin named Mary.

**Question**: Why do you think Jesus had to be born of a virgin?

5. Various Interpretations

Two common views about why Jesus had to be born of a virgin are:

 - Christ had to be virgin-born to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 - The virgin-birth accounts for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

 It appears that Matthew and Luke may be less concerned about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ than they are about His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 - Romans 5:18-19

**D. The Sinless Life**

 1. - Hebrews 4:15,

 There has been some disagreement on the meaning of the phrase “without sin.” The issues that have been subject to debate are:

 - Was Jesus sinless in that He was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the pollution of original sin?

 - Or was He sinless by virtue of His perfect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Father, even though He shared in our fallen human nature?

 - Was Jesus capable of sinning by virtue of His true humanity?

 - Or was He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of sinning because He was God?

**Question**: What do you think?