

**Christmas Essentials**  
**THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH**  
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**The Big Idea**

The virgin birth of Jesus is a controversial subject inside and outside the larger church. The Bible makes it very clear that Jesus was born of a virgin. God must think it is very important. And so should we, for some very good reasons. If we grasp the significance of the virgin birth, we can experience its powerful impact. But believing it may cost you something, just like it did Mary and Joseph.

Matthew 1:22-23 *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-which means, "God with us." NIV*

Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. NIV*

**Why don't people believe it?**

- It is illogical from their current worldview.
- It carries implications and impositions.
  - If they believe it, they have to come to grips with who Jesus really is.
  - And what that means to their own lives.
  - If Jesus was born of a virgin, who does that make him?
  - What am I to do with him?
  - What imposition does that place on me?

**Muslims believe it.**

- "The Case for the Virgin Birth", by R. T. Kendall (*Charisma*, p 25, December 2009)

**Luke 1:26-38 – God explains the virgin birth to Mary**

**Lessons from the virgin birth**

**1. Trust in **God's ability** to fulfill his purposes on earth.**

- **Luke 1:35, 37** *The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God... For nothing is impossible with God." NIV*
- "Nothing is impossible with God."
  - **Can your God do anything?**
  - Many who deny the virgin birth do so because they deny God's power.
    - Even "Christian" college professors will try to dissuade students.
    - They deny God's power and imply he is a distant, impotent God.
    - They cut life off at the horizon, leaving God out of human affairs.
  - The Bible is the story of God's creation and intervention into the lives of people.
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- The virgin birth was not just a miracle to bring attention to the Messiah.
  - **The virgin birth was the only way to bring the God-man to the earth.**
- Being born of a man and woman would have made him fully man, but not God.
  - Arriving on earth without human birth would have made him fully God, but not man.
  - Being born of God and woman gave him the nature of each.
- Only as God could he live a perfect life and fully represent God to us.
  - Only as man could he suffer and die in our place.

### Matthew 1:18-25 – God confirms the story to Joseph

#### 2. Accept the humiliation that goes with serving Jesus.

- **Matthew 1:24** *When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. NIV*
- God did not avoid putting Mary and Joseph in an awkward spot.
  - He didn't bother to defend them or clear things up.
- Mary kept these things hidden.
  - She didn't defend herself.
- Joseph accepted God's assignment to marry her and stand accused of impurity.
  - He could have refused and rightly blamed the pregnancy on another.
- Mary and Joseph knew what was true and didn't need the validation of others to make it so.
- **God validates/substantiates his miracles but doesn't defend them.**
  - He doesn't bother to explain them or convince a cynical crowd.
- **The virgin birth is typical of many Bible beliefs misunderstood and scorned by many.**
  - We need to accept the humiliation that comes with believing what is true, though unpopular.
  - Society's validation doesn't make something "more true".
  - What is your source of validation?
    - The Bible?
    - God?
    - Others?

#### 3. Embrace the Good News that changes lives.

- **Matthew 1:21** *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. NIV*
- **The virgin birth is the source of transformed lives.**
- Without a virgin birth, lives could not be changed.
  - If Jesus was only God, he couldn't have died.
  - If Jesus was only man, he couldn't have lived a perfect life and would have died for his own sins.
  - Because he was both, he is the source of eternal life for all who believe.
- **"He became like us so that we could become like him."**
  - Your life can be transformed because of the virgin birth.

**Beliefs matter.**

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- Believe it.
- Appreciate the importance of it.
- Proclaim its transforming power.
- Immanuel!

**The Ask**

- Accept the Good News – all of it.
- Commit yourself to Christ
- Proclaim the Good News confidently and with full authority.