

- i. Meaning of the Virgin Birth in Christianity
  - 1. Points to the mystery of the union of God and humanity in Jesus.
  - 2. Conceived by the Holy Spirit born of the virgin Mary affirms that God is making a new beginning in Jesus. God is coming down to save His creation.
  - 3. Jesus was born of a human being, therefore he is truly human.
  - 4. Mary accepts the gift of Jesus from God; this functions as a sign that our salvation is by grace alone.
- b. Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
  - i. Notice this comes directly after the mention of Jesus' conception and birth.
    - 1. Barth points out that the creed passes over Jesus' life and moves too quickly to his death
    - 2. He preferred one catechism's idea that "suffered" pointed to Jesus' entire ministry. Surely, Barth wrote, Jesus teaching, preaching, and healings were part of the redemptive quality of his life.
  - ii. Why is Pilate mentioned in the creed?
    - 1. It dates the passion of Jesus anchoring his work in human history.
    - 2. It links the death of Jesus to government as if to say Jesus is the judge even of governments.
  - iii. Jesus was crucified and died
    - 1. He took the sin of all humanity on himself.
    - 2. The cross shows the heinousness of sin and the cost to God of forgiveness.
  - iv. He descended into hell or he descended to the dead
    - 1. I Peter
    - 2. Reformers