



6.71

MOTIVES OF THE INCARNATION



Name: _____ Date: _____

Words to know:

tenet (*belief*), gratuitous (*given freely*), presumption (*the belief that we can save ourselves or do not need salvation*)

One of the central tenets of the Catholic faith is the claim that _____.

One of the classical questions in Christian theology, then, is _____?

Objections to the Incarnation:

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Aquinas responds to these objections by appealing to God's _____.

Goodness is a principal trait of God, and Aquinas argues that it is proper to goodness _____. God has created us by giving us being not because He _____ to, but as a gratuitous expression of His _____. Likewise, He offers us the grace of participation in _____ as a free expression of His own goodness. So fittingly, He can also become _____ as a way of communicating His goodness and expressing His love for humanity.

Is it strictly necessary for God to become human in order to redeem the human race?

Aquinas notes that God _____ saved us without employing the means of the Incarnation, but He then argues that it was the most _____ means, the most express way to communicate _____ and _____ to the human race.

("Most fitting" here means something like most _____, but also most tangibly _____, most beautiful, most _____.)





The Incarnation does two main things for us:

How the Incarnation Unites us to our _____

1. Illumines our _____
2. Strengthens our _____
3. Inspires our _____
4. Gives us a _____
5. Effects _____

How the Incarnation Withdrawals us to our _____

1. Frees us from _____
2. Teaches us the grandeur of the _____ of man
3. A remedy to human _____
4. Cures our _____
5. The Incarnation is a work of _____.

Because Christ is _____, He can restore a right relationship between sinful humanity and God. Because He is _____, His human activity of restoration has an infinite dignity and worth.

Aquinas illustrates in a particularly beautiful way what theology is at its best: a study in _____ of the mystery of the divine _____ itself.

Comprehension question: In your own words, explain why God became human using one or two of the reasons Aquinas provides.

