



# 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.