



Sermon Notes: The Confounding Jesus

If something *confounds* you, it amazes, puzzles and confuses you.

1. Jesus' nature confounds.

- a. In Jesus, God became a man without ceasing to be God.
- b. In becoming a man, Jesus emptied himself of the independent use of his divine privileges.

2. Jesus' perception confounds.

3. Jesus' mission confounds.

4. Jesus' humility confounds.

Gospel Applications:

1. Life is not about you, it's about Jesus.
2. Jesus confounds everyone, and that's evidence he is who he says he is.
3. Let the real, historic Jesus be God.
4. When Jesus confounds you on a personal level, stay in the story.



Application Questions: The Confounding Jesus

1. What did you know – what had you heard – about Jesus' childhood prior to this message?
2. Modern portrayals of Jesus often show him struggling with his identity as the Messiah. How do you know from this text that he was conscious of his identity at age 12?
3. What kinds of questions do you imagine Jesus asking of the rabbis in the temple?
4. Given what Luke writes in 2:40 and 2:52, what are some things that Jesus must've laid aside (emptied himself of) in order to become a human child?
5. What stands out to you the most about the list you just made in #4?
6. What are some things about Jesus that have confounded you personally?
 - Things about his character/nature?
 - Things that he said or didn't say?
 - Things that he did or didn't do?
 - Other?
7. When we run into things about Jesus that confound us, what are some ways we naturally tend to react? What do you think is the best possible way we *could* react?
8. What are some ways you observe people (Christian or otherwise) "amputating" part of Jesus to get rid of the uncomfortable paradoxes of his life and teaching? What's dangerous about this approach?
9. What are some practical ways you will handle the confounding, confusing things about Jesus going forward – whether these things are theological or personal in nature?