

Belgic Confession of Faith (1561)

Article XVII

The Recovery of Fallen Man

Leader: We believe that our most gracious God, in His admirable wisdom and goodness, seeing that man had thus thrown himself into physical and spiritual death and made himself wholly miserable, was pleased to seek and comfort him, when he trembling fled from His presence, promising him that He would give His Son (who would be *born of a woman*) to bruise the head of the serpent and to make him blessed.¹

Article XVIII

The Incarnation of Jesus Christ

People: We confess, therefore, that God has fulfilled the promise which He made to the fathers by the mouth of His holy prophets,² when He sent into the world, at the time appointed by Him, His own only-begotten and eternal Son, who *took upon Him the form of a servant and became like unto man*,³ really assuming the true human nature with all its infirmities, sin excepted;⁴

Leader: being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit without the means of man;⁵ and did not only assume human nature as to the body, but also a true human soul, that He might be a real man.⁶

People: For since the soul was lost as well as the body, it was necessary that He should take both upon Him, to save both.

¹ Gen. 3:8f

² Luke 1:55; Acts 13:23

³ Phil. 2:7

⁴ Heb. 2:14-15; 4:15

⁵ Luke 1:31-42; Gal. 4:4

⁶ Matt. 26:38; John 12:27