Through the birth of Christ the world began a new age that is completely different from all the ages preceding it. This Birth became a separator between two distinguished ages that are (B.C.) before Christ and A.D. (Anno Domini) the year of the Lord.

Through the birth of Christ, salvation was born and we received the grace of sonship and now we can call God Our Father Who art in heaven. Hence the divine image returned to us that we had lost through sin and we receive it through the grace of baptism. The Feast of the Nativity is the beginning of all feasts in the New Testament. It was this feast of which the angel cried out saying, "I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

Celebrating the Feast of the Nativity is not a celebration of the end of our fast nor is it merely the exchange of greetings and it is not a worldly joy that is expressed by certain aspects or appearances, but the true joy is to receive the effectiveness of the Nativity in our practical life. The blessing of a new Christmas comes to us by hearing the words of the Holy Bible, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Romans 12:2) Yes, we are not of this world to be conformed to it! Here is what the Lord says to us, "You are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world." (John 15:19) Therefore, do not conform to this world, but may you have your own specific appearance that distinguishes you. As it was said by Saint John the Beloved, "In this the children of God are manifest." (1 John 3:10) Therefore, whoever sees you would say, ‘Truly they are God’s children. They have His image as God created them according to His image and likeness.’ (Genesis 1:26, 27)

In celebrating the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, we remember that God has restored to us the divine image. So be firm in it, because you are the children of God and you must be according to His likeness.
On the Unity of Christ
St. Cyril of Alexandria
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On the Unity of Christ was written by St. Cyril of Alexandria. Pope Cyril, the 24th Pope of Alexandria, defended the true faith in the face of the heretical doctrines of Nestorius during the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD. The book is part of the Popular Patristics Series, a series of writings by the early Fathers that includes books such as On the Incarnation by St. Athanasius, On the Dormition of Mary, and On the Holy Spirit by St. Basil the Great. Through his book On the Unity of Christ, Pope Cyril discredits the doctrines of Nestorius and beautifully defends and preserves the true Christological faith.

The entire book is a conversation that St. Cyril is having with another person about the Nestorian heresy. Pope Cyril uses his great wisdom to effectively paint the true Christological faith, feeding off the Bible to portray the true nature of Christ. He explains that Divine Word did not unite with Christ after his birth from the Virgin, but the Word emptied Himself in all His glory and became Man, being born from the Virgin. Throughout the conversation in the book, Pope Cyril beautifully portrays the true understanding of Christ and simultaneously discredits the Nestorian doctrine, all the while combining a depth of spiritual understanding with sensible and logical reasoning. Although Pope Cyril’s explanations and arguments are logically grounded and do very much appeal to reason, his writing is intellectually demanding and thus should not be read passively or without a pencil.