

The Humanity of Christ

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Introduction: The Importance of Understanding Jesus' Humanity.

- A. Essential to our salvation is what Jesus accomplished for us *as a man*.
- B. Though challenging to our finite minds to grasp, Jesus was both God and Man at the same time.
- C. Knowing and understanding with full conviction why Christ who is God had to live as a man is vital to having a proper faith in the Lord Jesus.
- D. His achievements on our behalf as "God in the flesh" give us the hope of Heaven!

I. God in the Flesh.

- A. Jesus was God in the flesh (**Col. 2:9**).
- B. When looking at Jesus, a person looked at God! (**John 14:6-10**).

II. How Was It Possible for God to Be in the Flesh?

- A. The glory of God dwelt in the physical tabernacle made with human hands.
 - 1. Moses erected the tabernacle where God would dwell in Israel (**Exod. 40:34-35**).
 - 2. God Himself referred to the tabernacle or sanctuary as the place where He would reside or stay among them (**Exod. 25:8**).
- B. Similarly, when Jesus came to earth, He dwelt in a "tabernacle."
 - 1. His tabernacle however was not made with human hands: His tabernacle was prepared by God the Father (**Heb. 10:5**).
 - 2. When "the Word" (i.e., Christ) came into the body, the glory of God filled that tabernacle of flesh (**John 1:1, 14**).

Note: There was an occasion when the radiant glory of God veiled by the body of Jesus was lifted before Peter, James, and John on the holy mountain (**Mt 17:1-9; 2 Pet 1:16-18**).

- 3. Jesus was Immanuel, "*God with us*" (**Mat. 1:23**)!
- C. Jesus lived the human experience by residing in His tabernacle of flesh.
 - 1. All Christ needed was a body for His divine spirit to inhabit in order to experience the same type of human things that we experience (e.g., birth, childhood, hunger, thirst, emotions, suffering, death).
 - 2. Even after His resurrection, Jesus continued to dwell in the flesh and He demonstrated His humanity before His disciples (**Luke 24:38-43**).
 - 3. *Only* when the exercise of His Divine nature did not interfere or negate His role as a man and servant did Jesus exercise Divine power.
 - 4. When He did exercise His divine power, He had very good reason to do so (e.g. to give evidence to believe in Him **John 7:31**; to bring glory to God, know the thoughts of others, grant forgiveness of sins - **Mat. 9:1-9**).
 - 5. Jesus exercised His powers with discretion in order to share *fully* the human experience while at the same time remaining *fully* God.

III. Why Was It Essential, for Our Sake, for Jesus to Live As a Man?

- A. For our eternal salvation
 - 1. Jesus had to live as a man so that He might give Himself as a ransom for all (**Mark 10:45**).
 - 2. God or Deity is Eternal (**Rev. 22:13**) and therefore cannot die.
 - 3. Jesus had to live as a man so he could die for our sins (**Phil 2:5-8**).
- B. So He would be qualified to be our Mediator
 - 1. Jesus needed to be both God and man in order that He might act as our mediator or our “go-between” (**1 Tim. 2:5-6**).
 - 2. Jesus had to be both God and man to be our mediator, for a mediator must be able to represent both sides equally (cf. **Job 9:32-33**).
- C. So He could act as our High Priest
 - 1. Jesus had to become a real man, made like His brethren in every respect (**Heb. 2:17**).
 - 2. He had to experience the human predicament firsthand and be one with His brothers of the flesh (e.g. trials, burdens, pains, etc.).
 - 3. If Jesus was to act as a representative of men as their high priest, He *had* to be made like his brethren in *all* things.
 - 4. Jesus proved Himself to be qualified to be our High Priest!
 - 5. As High Priest, it is the role of Christ to make “propitiation” or “atonement” for the sins of the people (KJV - “reconciliation”).
 - 6. The fact that He experienced temptation enables Christ to come to our aid and rescue us when we ourselves are tempted (**Heb 2:18**).
- D. So we could approach God’s throne *boldly* (**Heb. 4:14-16**).
 - 1. Jesus has been tempted in all things; He knows of its power and intensity, therefore He can sympathize; He understands the sinners’ fight!
 - 2. Living as a man, Jesus experienced the temptation to sin, an experience He never *personally* had before as Deity (cf. **Jas. 1:13**).
 - 3. Yet, even in the flesh, Jesus never gave into a temptation to sin (**Heb. 4:15; Also 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:22; 1 John 3:5; John 8:29, 46; 10:32**).
 - 4. Let us draw near to God with confidence! Jesus, as our High Priest is able to give us access to God!
 - 5. Under the Old Law, only the priests could draw near and only under certain conditions; no other Israelite or person could draw near at all.
 - 6. Under the New Law, *all* Christians may approach God’s throne of grace in time of need with the help of Jesus, who appeals to God on our behalf
 - 7. Our confident freedom to approach God is based on the blood of Jesus (**Heb. 10:19**).

Conclusion: Belief in the Humanity of Christ Is Essential to Being a True Child of God.

- A. Genuine Christians will confess that Jesus lived as a real man (**1 John 4:2**).
- B. Those who deny Jesus’ humanity are not true children of God (**1 John 4:3**).