

# **The Humanity of Christ**

**Though Jesus was fully God, He  
was at the same time fully human**

Denials of the humanity of Christ are less common than denials of His deity. As long as you do not inject the Deity factor into the person of Christ, He is only a man, however fine or exalted, and as merely a man He cannot disturb people with His claims so much as if He is the God-man. Some, however, may acknowledge Him as a good man (how so if He lied?) but not as a perfect man (for then they might feel more obligated to listen to Him even though they may not acknowledge Him as God).

# **Daniel 7:13**

**I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him.**

# Daniel 7:14

**And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.**

# Titles for Jesus

| Title      | Synoptic Gospels | Gospel of John | Acts | Paul's Epistles |
|------------|------------------|----------------|------|-----------------|
| Son of Man | 72               | 13             | 7    | 0               |
| Son of God | 14               | 30             | 2    | 4               |
| Messiah    | 0                | 2              | 0    | 0               |
| Christ     | 37               | 21             | 107  | 243             |

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Matthew | The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham (1:1)              |
| Mark    | The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (1:1).                                 |
| Luke    | For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (2:11) |
| John    | For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ (1:17)     |

# John 1:1-3

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**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.**

# John 1:14

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**And the Word became flesh,  
and dwelt among us, and we saw  
His glory, glory as of the only  
begotten from the Father, full of  
grace and truth.**



# John 1:18

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**No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.**

# Why Did God Become Man?

- To reveal God to us (John 1:18)
- To give an example for living (1 Pet 2:21)
- To provide an effective sacrifice for sin—sin requires death. Since God does not die, a perfect God-man needed (Heb 10:1-10).
- To fulfill Davidic Covenant (2 Sam 7:12-16)
- To destroy works of the devil (1 John 3:8)
- To be sympathetic high priest (Heb 4:14-16)
- To be a qualified Judge (John 5:22, 27)

# John 14:28

- **“You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.”**
- **If Jesus is equal with the Father, how can the Father be greater?**

- The Father is greater than the Son by office, but not by nature, since both are God (see John 1:1; 8:58; 10:30).
- As an earthly father is equally human with his son, but holds a higher office, so the Father and the Son in the Trinity are equal in essence, but different in function.
- Jesus cannot ever be said to say that He considered Himself anything less than God by nature. Note...

## Jesus equal to Father

- In essence—same substance; being
- In nature—sharing the same attributes
- In character—acting in harmony w/each other

## Father greater than Jesus

- In function—differing in roles
- In office—Father's will implemented by the Son.
- In position—Son subservient to Father

**How did God, a Spirit, take  
on flesh and become a man?**

# Philippians 2:5-7

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Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but **emptied Himself,** taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

# “He emptied Himself”

- Self-imposed as only God could do.
- To take “form of a slave” was to lower Himself from exalted to humble—from God to a man till He suffered shameful death.
- **Sum:** Kenosis entails Christ leaving His pre-incarnate position and taking on a servant-humanity—He emptied Himself of retaining and exploiting His status in the Godhead and took on humanity in order to die.



# What Kenosis is NOT

- Christ did NOT surrender any attributes of His deity (cf. John 10:30). If He had, He would not have been God in His earthly life. And God can never cease to be God for a single moment.
- Christ did NOT *appear* as a man by simply disguising His deity (cf. John 14:9) as Docetists propose.

| Party   | Date | Human Nature | Divine Nature | Reference    |
|---------|------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Docetic | 60   | Deny         | Affirm        | 1 John 4:1-3 |

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world (1 John 4:2-3).

| Party        | Date | Human Nature                     | Divine Nature | Reference                  |
|--------------|------|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Docetic      | 60   | Deny                             | Affirm        | 1 John 4:1-3               |
| Ebionite     | 120  | Affirm                           | Deny          | Irenaeus                   |
| Arian        | 325  | Affirm                           | Reduce        | Nicea                      |
| Apollinarian | 381  | Reduce                           | Affirm        | Constantinople             |
| Nestorian    | 431  | Held that Christ was two persons |               | Ephesus                    |
| Eutychian    | 451  | Part man, part God               |               | Chalcedon & Constantinople |
| Orthodox     | 33   | Fully human and fully divine     |               | Affirmed throughout        |

# **The Hypostatic Union— Christ Fully God, Fully Man**

# His Virgin Birth

- Christ was conceived by Holy Spirit inside of Mary who was His human mother.
- This points to how salvation is solely the work of Triune God.
- His virgin birth shows how deity & humanity come together in one person
- Shows Christ's true humanity and yet His ability to be without sin

# Isaiah 9:6-7

- **A child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore.**

# Human Weaknesses/ Limitations

- He had a human body
  - Hungered & thirsted (Matt 4:2; John 19:28)
  - God tired (John 4:6)
- He had a human mind in that Jesus “increased in wisdom” (Luke 2:52) and “learned obedience” (Hebrews 5:8).
- He had human emotions (marveled at faith, troubled over sin, wept at death)

# Had a human soul & spirit

- Then He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me” (Matthew 26:38)
- And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.” Having said this, He breathed His last (Luke 23:46)



# Yet Completely Sinless

- “Who convicts me of sin”? (John 8:48)
- “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12)
- “I always do what is pleasing to him” (John 8:29)
- Pilate said, “I find no crime in him” (John 18:38)
- Called “Holy/Righteous One” (Acts 3:14)
- He “who knew no sin” (2 Cor. 5:21)
- one who *in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet w/o sin* (Heb. 4:15)

# Necessity for His Humanity

- Rep. for obedience: Adam failed; he passed
- A Sub. Sac.: Only a man could pay penalty
- To be “one mediator b/t God and man”
- To rule creation: “given all authority in heaven and earth” (Matt 28:18)
- To be our example & pattern in life (Rom. 8:29, “to be conformed to His image”)
- A Pattern of our redeemed bodies
- To sympathize as High Priest

# Will Remain a Man Forever

- Appeared as man after Resurrection
- Will return same way He ascended
- Appeared to Saul (Paul) as a man
- Appeared to John "as one like a son of man" (Rev. 1:13-17).
- Will "drink wine again w/disciples in His Father's Kingdom" (Matt. 26:29)
- He lives forever as a man, fully God, as the second person of the Trinity.

# CONCLUSION

- Perfect sacrifice: MUST be both God & man. No finite creature could satisfy God's wrath.
- Salvation comes only from the LORD.
- Only the God-man can mediate b/t the two.
- If Jesus is God, then his claims are the end-all to everything we know as humans
- If Jesus isn't God there is no salvation and ultimately there is no Christianity.
- "No one who denies the Son has the Father" (1 John 2:23; cf. 2 John 9).

# **The Nicene Creed (AD 325)**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man...**

