

### **3-B**

## **Jesus' Two Natures and OUR Two Natures**

1. **PRO 30:4** Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? **What is His name, and what is His Son's name**, if you know?
2. **PSA 2:6** "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." 7 "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, '**You are My Son, Today I have begotten You**.' 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.
3. **ISA 7:14** "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Jesus is God in human flesh. He is not half God and half man. He is fully God and fully man. At the incarnation He added to His divine nature the nature of man. Thus He has two natures: **divine and human**. He is both God and man at the same time. He is not merely a man who 'had God within Him' nor is he a man who 'manifested the God principle'. He is God, second person of the Trinity. "**The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word**" (HEB 1:3, NIV). Jesus' two natures are not 'mixed together', nor are they combined into a new God-man nature. They are separate yet act as a unit. This is called the **Hypostatic Union**. The following chart should help you see **the two natures of Jesus**:

<b>Jesus is BOTH God &amp; Man</b>	
<b>GOD</b>	<b>MAN</b>
He is worshiped: <b>MAT 2:2, 11; 14:33; 28:9</b>	He worshiped the Father: <b>JOH 17</b>
He was called God: <b>JOH 20:28; HEB 1:8</b>	He was called man: <b>MAR 15:39; JOH 19:5</b>
He was called Son of God: <b>MAR 1:1</b>	He was called Son of Man: <b>MAT 8:20, 12:40, 17:9, 20:28</b>
He is prayed to: <b>ACT 7:59; 1CO 1:1-2</b>	He prayed to the Father: <b>JOH 17:1</b>
He is sinless: <b>1PE 2:22; HEB 4:15</b>	He was tempted: <b>MAT 4:1</b>
He knows all things: <b>JOH 21:17</b>	He grew in wisdom: <b>LUK 2:52</b>
He gives eternal life: <b>JOH 10:28</b>	He died: <b>ROM 5:8</b>
All the fullness of deity dwells in Him: <b>COL 2:9</b>	He has a body of flesh & bones: <b>LUK 24:39</b>

One of the most common errors that non-Christian cults make is not understanding the two natures of Christ. For example, the Jehovah's Witnesses focus on Jesus' humanity and ignore His divinity. The Christian Scientists, on the other hand, focus on the divine nature and ignore the human. For a proper understanding of Jesus and, therefore, all other doctrines that relate to Him, His two natures must be properly understood and defined.

The Bible is about Jesus (**JOH 5:39**). The prophets prophesied about Him (**ACT 10:43**). The Father bore witness of Him (**JOH 5:37, 8:18**). The Holy Spirit bore witness of Him (**JOH 15:26**). The works Jesus did bore witness of Him (**JOH 5:36, 10:25**). The multitudes bore witness of Him (**JOH 12:17**). And, Jesus bore witness of Himself (**JOH 14:6, 18:6**). Other verses to consider when examining His deity are, **JOH 1:1,14; 5:18; 20:28; ROM 9:5; PHI 2:5-8; TIT 2:13; HEB 1:6-8; and 2PE 1:1**.

1. **1TI 2:5** For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, **the Man Christ Jesus**, (NKJ)

Right now, there is a man in heaven on the throne of God. He is our advocate with the Father (**1JO 2:1**). He is our Savior (**TIT 2:13**). He is our Lord (**ROM 10:9-10**). He is Jesus.

### **The Two Natures of Christ**

**by Pastor Jack Cascione**

There are numerous occasions when Christians are challenged to show that the Bible says that Jesus Christ is truly God. The Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Moslems, Jews, and many others teach that He is not. For the uninitiated reader, the Bible may appear to contradict itself concerning the person of Christ. This is because there are clear passages that refer to Christ as God and there are others that clearly teach that Christ is man or human. There are also other passages that show that Christ is God and human in the same verse.

For example, there are passages that teach that God raised Christ from the dead and there are other passages that show that Christ raised Himself from the dead. The answer to the dilemma is the greatest miracle of all time, that God became man at Christmas. Christ is both human and divine. According to His human nature, God raised Christ from the dead. According to His divine nature, Christ raised Himself from the dead.

The Bible shows us that both the human nature and the divine nature of Christ are really one Christ, not a split personality. It also shows us that Christ remains fully divine, and that all the power of God is given to the humanity while the humanity remains fully human. Neither the humanity nor the deity lose their qualities in Christ. However, we don't worship two Christs, but one Christ. The one Christ works for one purpose, the salvation of the human race.

The Nicene Creed correctly teaches that *We believe ...in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man...*

To help you see how the Bible teaches that Christ is both human and divine, the following verses are listed. There is no contradiction here, only the clear teaching that the second person of the Trinity took on human flesh and became eternally human, while also remaining eternally God.

### Humanity of Christ

**JER 23:5** Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

**MAT 11:27** All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and [he] to whomsoever the Son will reveal [him].

**MAT 21:18** Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.

**MAT 24:36** But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

**MAT 28:18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

**LUK 22:42** Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

**LUK 24:39** Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have...42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. 43 And he took [it], and did eat before them.

**JOH 3:34** For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure [unto him]. 35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

### Humanity & Deity of Christ

**ISA 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**ISA 9:6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

**LUK 2:11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

**JOH 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**JOH 17:5** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

**ACT 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

**ROM 1:3** Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

**ROM 9:5** Whose [are] the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ [came], who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

**1CO 2:8** Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known [it], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

**GAL 4:4** But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

**PHI 2:6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not

### The Deity of Christ

**1KI 18:39** And when all the people saw [it], they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he [is] the God; the Lord, he [is] the God.

**PSA 118:27** God [is] the Lord, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, [even] unto the horns of the altar.

**JER 10:10** But the Lord [is] the true God, he [is] the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

**ISA 40:9b** ...be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! 10 Behold, the Lord God will come with strong [hand], and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward [is] with him, and his work before him. 11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry [them] in his bosom, [and] shall gently lead those that are with young.

**MAT 16: 16** And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

**MAT 26:63**...the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

**MAT 28:20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.

**MAR 14:61** Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?62 And Jesus said, I am:...

**JOH 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**JOH 1:3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

**JOH 2:11** This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

**JOH 2:19** Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? 21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

**JOH 5:17** But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

**JOH 5:21** For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth [them]; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. 22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: 23 That all [men] should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

**JOH 8:58** Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

**JOH 10:18** No man taketh [my life]it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have

**JOH 4:6** Jesus therefore, being wearied with journey, sat thus on the well: it was about the sixth hour.

**JOH 8:40** But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

**JOH 11:35** Jesus wept.

**JOH 14:28** Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come [again] unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

**JOH 19:28** After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

**ACT 2:32** This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

**ACT 3:15** And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

**ROM 8:11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

**GAL 3:16** Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

**COL 2:9** For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

**1TI 2:5** For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

**1TI 3:16** And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

**HEB 2:14** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

**1PE 3:18** For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

**1JO 1:1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; :2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen [it], and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

**1JO 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

**JOH 10:28** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave [them] me, is greater than all; and no [man] is able to pluck [them] out of my Father's hand. 30 I and [my] Father are one.

**JOH 19:7** The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

**JOH 20:28** And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

**JOH 21:17** He saith unto him the third time, Simon, [son] of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

**ROM 5:10** For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

**PHI 2:9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; 11 And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**COL 1:16** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

**TIT 2:13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

**HEB 1:8** But unto the Son [he saith], Thy throne, O God, [is] for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness [is] the sceptre of thy kingdom. 9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, [even] thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

**HEB 1:10** And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

**1JO 3:8** He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

**1JO 5:20** And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, [even] in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

**2PE 1:1** Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

### **If Jesus is God, then why did He not know the time of His return?**

In Matt. 24:35-36 Jesus said, "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.*"<sup>36</sup> "*But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.*"<sup>37</sup> "*For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.*"

If Jesus is God in flesh, then shouldn't He know what the day and hour of his return would be? After all, God knows all things. Therefore, if Jesus doesn't know all things, then He cannot be God. This objection is most often raised by the Jehovah's Witnesses but is also echoed by the Christadelphians. It is a good question. Jesus was both God and man. He had two natures. He was divine and human at the same time. This teaching is known as the hypostatic union; that is, the coming-together of two natures in one person. In Heb. 2:9 that Jesus was ". . . *made for a little while lower than the angels . . .*" Also in Phil. 2:5-8, it says that Jesus "*emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men . . .*" Col. 2:9 says, "*For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.*" Jesus was both God and man at the same time.

As a man, Jesus cooperated with the limitations of being a man. That is why we have verses like Luke 2:52 that says "*Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*" Therefore, at this point in his ministry he could say He did not know the day nor hour of His return. It is not a denial of His being God, but a confirmation of Him being man. Also, the logic that Jesus could not be God because He did not know all things works both ways. If we could find a scripture where Jesus **does** know all things, then that would prove that He was God, wouldn't it?

*He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus \*said to him, "Tend My sheep" (John 21:17 - NASB).*

Jesus did not correct Peter and say, "Hold on Peter, I do not know all things." He let Peter continue on with his statement that Jesus knew all things. Therefore, it must be true. But, if we have a verse that says that Jesus did **not** know all things and another that says he **did** know all things, then isn't that a contradiction? No. It is not.

Before Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection He said the Father alone knew the day and hour of His return. It wasn't until **after** Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection that omniscience is attributed to Jesus. As I said before, Jesus was cooperating with the limitations of being a man and completed His ministry on this earth. He was then glorified in His resurrection. Yet, He was still a man (cf. Col. 2:9; 1 Tim. 2:5). After Jesus' resurrection, He was able to appear and disappear at will. This is not the normal ability of a man. But, it is, apparently, the normal ability of a resurrected and glorified man. Jesus was different after the resurrection. There had been a change. He was still a man and He knew all things.

Gal. 4:4 God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law

LUK 1:35 The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

JOH 3:34 He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God; for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him.

HEB 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself without spot unto God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

LUK 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor, etc." Christ refers to these words as His qualification or credentials. "And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened upon Him, and He began to say unto them, this day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears.

When the Pharisees attributed Christ's power to cast out devils to Beelzebub; we read in Matthew 12:25, the operation of omnipotence which belongs to Deity alone. "And Jesus knew their thoughts." In verse 28, Christ attributes His power to cast out devils to the Holy Spirit of God. "If I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you."

JOH 18:37 To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world."

HEB 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that, through death, He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."

LUK 1:35 "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

JOH 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." Heb. 2:16, "For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham."

JOH 8:58 "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." And also, Col. 1:15, "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature."

LUK 2:52 "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." Lastly, other things are understood, only of both natures united together, as Matt. 17:5, "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

EPH 1:22 "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church."

JOH 3:13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." This is spoken of his manhood, whereas we must understand, that only his Deity came down from heaven.

JOH 6:62 What if ye should see the Son of Man (viz. Christ's human nature) ascended up where he (viz. his Deity) was before."

**EPH 1:21** Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.”

**HEB 1:6** And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.”

**COL 2:3** In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

**PHI 2:9-10** Therefore God exalted him on High, and gave him the name above all names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow [namely worship, and be subject to him] both of things in heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth.

### **The Two Became One: Jesus Christ at the Incarnation**

#### **Two Distinct, Opposite Natures United in One Person**

In order for Christ to legally qualify to be our substitute and representative, His divinity had to be united to our corporate fallen humanity that needed redeeming. It is in the incarnation that these two distinct opposite natures were united together in one person and Christ became the second Adam. This is the *in Christ* motif, the central theme of Paul’s theology [1 Corinthians 1:30].

#### **The Paradox**

##### **AS GOD HE WAS:**

1. Son of God [Lk.1:35]
2. Self-Existing [Jn. 1:4]
3. Spirit [Jn. 4:24]
4. Equal with God [Phil. 2:6]
5. Sinless [2 Cor. 5:21]
6. Independent [Jn. 10:18]
7. Immortal [1 Tim. 1:17]
8. Lawgiver [Ja. 4:12]

##### **AS MAN HE WAS MADE:**

1. Son of Man [Lk. 19:10]
2. Of a Woman [Gal. 4:4]
3. Flesh [Jn. 1:14]
4. A Slave of God [Phil. 2:7]
5. Sin [2 Cor. 5:21]
6. Dependent [Jn. 5:19,30]
7. Mortal [Heb. 2:14,15]
8. Under Law [Gal. 4:4]

### **Jesus Christ in the Resurrection**

#### **The Two Natures Became One, Sharing the Same Divine Life**

On the cross, our corporate condemned life died eternally *in Christ* [the wages of sin, see 2 Corinthians 5:14]. In the resurrection, God gave the human race the eternal life of His Son [1 John 5:11]. All that we are, as a result of the Fall, Christ was made at the incarnation; that through His life, death, and resurrection all that He is we were made *in Him* [2 Corinthians 5:17]. This constitutes the good news of the gospel.

#### **BY NATURE WE ARE:**

1. Spiritually dead but *in Christ* were made spiritually alive [Eph. 2:5]
2. Sinners but *in Christ* were made righteous [2 Cor. 5:21]
3. Sinful but *in Christ* were made holy and blameless [Eph. 1:4]
4. Condemned but *in Christ* were justified [Rom. 5:18]
5. Sons of man but *in Christ* were made sons of God [1 Jn. 3:1]
6. Hell bound but *in Christ* were made to sit in heavenly places [Eph. 2:6]
7. Mortal but *in Christ* were made immortal [2 Tim. 1:8-10]
8. Poor but *in Christ* were made rich [2 Cor. 8:9]
9. Lower than the angels but *in Christ* were made joint heirs [Rom.8:17; Heb.2:5-12]

Hebrews 2:11, 14-18 is very clear as to the completeness and genuineness of Christ’s humanity.

#### **Jesus is true God**

- **JOH 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word (Jesus) was the God, and the Word (Jesus) was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made.
- **JOH 17:5** And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”

#### **Jesus was true man**

**LUK 2:11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. (LUK 2:1-14)

**LUK 2:40** And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon him.

**LUK 2:52** And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

**JOH 19:30** When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

### **THE HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST**

The ultimate question that man must answer is the one Jesus Christ spoke in Matthew 16:13, "Who do men say that I, the Son of man, am?" How a man answers that question will determine his eternal destiny. In this study, we will see what the Scriptures say about Jesus Christ.

#### **I. The Two Natures of Jesus Christ** Jesus Christ has both a divine nature and a human nature.

- A. Jesus Christ has a divine nature. He is fully God
- B. Jesus Christ has a human nature. He is fully human

1. Jesus claimed that He was a man. John 8:40; Matthew 9:6 "Son of man"
2. The apostles wrote in the N.T. that He was a man. 1 Timothy 2:5; Matthew 1: 1 "son of David, son of Abraham"; John 1: 14
3. Jesus' earthly life showed that He was a man. He had human characteristics. Luke 2:40-52 Jesus grew. John 4:6 Jesus became tired. Matthew 4:12 Jesus was hungry. John 19:30-34 Jesus died

### **The union of the two natures in Jesus Christ**

A. Christ's two natures are united in one person, yet are distinct from each other He was one person with two distinct natures, one human and one divine -- 1 John 4:15

B. This truth explains various Scriptures which refer to Christ's human or divine nature.

***How can Jesus not know the hour if He is God?***

Matthew 24: 36 human nature

John 21:17 divine nature

***How can the Father be greater than Jesus if Jesus is God?***

John 14: 28 human nature;

John 10:30, 20:28 divine nature

***How could Jesus be forsaken if He is 1 with the Father? How can Jesus be tempted if Jesus is God?***

Matthew 27: 46 human nature

John 10:30 divine nature

Matthew 4: 1-11 human nature; James 1: 3 divine nature

C. Because of Jesus' divine nature, He was not able to sin in His human nature.

#### **Jesus Christ was not able not to sin.**

1. Jesus was born without a sinful human nature. MAT 1:20; 2CO 5:21; 1JO 3:5

2. Jesus never sinned. 1PE 2:22

#### **Hebrews 4:15 Christ was tempted, but He never sinned**

D. This union is permanent and everlasting. Jesus Christ is forever the exalted Godman.

PHI 2:9-11

LUK 24:36-43

ACT 2:32-33

MAT 28:18

### **Jesus is fully God**

An early Christian profession of faith exclaims that "Jesus Christ is Lord" (Romans 10:9). Here are two truths about Jesus. First, he is Christ, a title equivalent to the Hebrew term Messiah, meaning "the anointed one." By calling him Christ, early Christians acknowledged that Jesus is greater than any human being (see Mark 8:27-30) and that he is the one sent by God to rescue us. Second, though in Jewish thought the Messiah might be a great man, Christians called Jesus "Lord" (*kyrios* in Greek). They used this word in their translations of the Old Testament for God's personal name (YHWH in Hebrew). Although *kyrios* could be used to mean master or sir, Jews and Christians refused to acknowledge the Roman emperor as "the Lord" (in an absolute sense, which is the way the emperor wanted it) because only God was "the Lord." Yet Jesus was called Lord, even *the* Lord.

In Philippians 2, Jesus is said to be "in very nature God" (verse 6); and is to be worshiped as Lord: "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow ... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" (verses 10-11). This statement paraphrases Isaiah 45:23, where God speaks of himself. God alone is to be worshiped, and when Christians call Jesus Lord, they proclaim him to be God.

#### **The New Testament continuously insists that Jesus Christ is God:**

- He was God before he was born in the flesh: "In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was God" (John 1:1).
- After his human birth he continued to be God. On earth, Jesus forgave sins (Mark 2:5-7), something only God can do. He claimed divinity (John 8:58) and thus equality with God (John 10:28-30). These claims led to charges of blasphemy (Matthew 26:63-66) and death by crucifixion.
- After his resurrection, he continues to be God. Thomas called the risen Jesus "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).
- The author of Hebrews, quoting Psalm 104, says of Jesus, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever" (Hebrews 1:8).

### **Jesus is fully human**

The New Testament also insists that Jesus is in every sense a human being, yet without sin (**HEB 4:15**). John wrote, "The Word became flesh" (John 1:14), and in his epistles John attacked denials of Jesus' humanity as demonic heresy (1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 7-11).

Throughout the Gospels we see Jesus operating within the confines of human flesh. He was born of a woman and grew up in a human family. He often got tired, and he hungered. At the end of his life, suffering the excruciating pain of crucifixion, he cried out in a human way, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46).

That Jesus Christ is fully human is of great importance to us. This truth tells us that in order to save us, God became one of us. To do so he did not abandon his divinity (only God can save us), but he fully clothed himself with humanity. This dual nature of our Savior continues as he intercedes for us in heaven: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5). Scripture thus implies that Jesus continues to be fully God and fully human--now God in glorified human flesh. Herein lies a great mystery of the Christian faith.