

Question Nine: Who Is Christ?*

I. Jesus – Fully Man

A. Jesus was fully and completely human.

1. Jesus was born of a human mother (Matt. 1:18).
2. He possessed a human body like we do.
 - a) His body had to grow and develop (Luke 2:40).
 - b) He became tired and worn out (John 4:6).
 - c) He experienced hunger pains (Matt. 4:2) and thirst (John 19:28).
 - d) He presently possesses a resurrected human body (Luke 24:39), which is a prototype of our future resurrected bodies (1 Cor. 15:35-58).
3. It appears that Jesus' mind worked like our minds work.
 - a) In the areas of speech, reading, and writing, He learned and developed like a normal child (Luke 2:52).
 - b) As a human, he did not know the time of his 2nd coming (Mark 13:32).
4. He felt emotion.
 - a) He “marveled” at the faith of the centurion (Matt. 8:10).
 - b) He “wept” at the death of Lazarus (John 11:35).
 - c) He experienced great sorrow and trouble concerning his approaching death (Matt. 26:38; John 12:27; Heb. 5:7).

B. The only difference between him and us is that he was without sin.

1. He kept all His Father's commands (John 15:10).
2. He never committed any sins (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5).
3. Like us, He faced a number of temptations, yet he never succumbed to temptation by sinning (Heb. 4:15).

C. He had to be fully human for a number of reasons.

1. He had to be fully human in order to serve as our perfect obedient representative, in contrast to our disobedient representative, Adam (Rom. 5:19). Without being fully human, his obedience would be meaningless.

* The material in this handout is a summary of chapter nine, “Who Is Christ?” in Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know*, ed. by Elliot Grudem (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005), 67-71.

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2. He had to be fully human in order to make substitutionary atonement (Heb. 2:17). Without being fully human, his death would be meaningless.
3. He had to be fully human in order to serve as the mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5). He was tempted like us (Heb. 4:15) so that he can help us in our time of temptation (Heb. 2:18).

II. Jesus – Fully God

A. Jesus was/is fully and completely God.

1. He was conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18).
2. Scripture writers claim that He is truly God. Examples:
 - a) Col. 2:9 – “In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form”
 - b) His followers and disciples referred to Him as “Lord,” a title, found in the Greek translation of the OT over 6000 times, referring to God.
 - c) John 8:57-59 – He claimed to be God before Abraham ever existed by stating, “Before Abraham was, I am.”
 - d) Rev. 22:13 – Jesus says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, ...”; these were titles God the Father made at the beginning of Revelation (1:8).
 - e) Phil. 2:9-11 – One day, everyone will recognize and worship Jesus as the Lord, just as the angels presently do (Heb. 1:6).

B. As God, he was able to bear the full penalty of sin for the entire world (1 John 2:1-2).

III. Conclusion: Jesus – Fully God and Fully Man

A. When the eternal Son of God took on a truly human nature, He became fully God and fully man at the same time. While distinct, these two natures (divine and human) are inseparably united together in one person, Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:5-8).

B. By being fully God and fully man, Jesus has been able to change the course of history forever.

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