

Christian Doctrine Jesus Christ (Part 3) The Humanity of Jesus Christ

The Union of Christ's Deity and Humanity

The incarnation of Christ resulted in Jesus taking on actual humanity. Unlike a typical person, though, Jesus now had both a human nature and a divine nature. Note what we learn from Scripture as we try to understand this concept:

- Jesus was full deity and perfect humanity at the same time (John 1:1, 14).
 - Jesus possessed all the qualities of God. (See "Part 1")
 - Jesus possessed all the qualities of a human being. He experienced physical growth (Luke 2:40), hunger (Matt. 4:2), thirst (John 19:28), tiredness (Matt. 8:24), emotions (John 11:35), etc.
- Jesus did not change from being God into being human. Rather, He added humanity to His divinity. He took on humanity, while remaining God. His two natures were distinct, yet united together in one person.
- Christ's divinity and humanity are both important.
 - Without Jesus' humanity, He could not have died in our place, taking our punishment for sin. Nor could He represent us to the Father as our Mediator. (Heb. 2:16-17; I Tim. 2:5)
 - Without Jesus' divinity, He could not have revealed God to us. Nor would He have been capable of bearing the sin penalty for all of mankind, by which we were redeemed. (John 14:9; Rom. 5:18)

The Willful Limitation of Christ

While taking on humanity, Jesus did not lose His divine qualities, though He often willfully chose not to use them.

- He allowed Himself to experience the limitations we have as human beings (Phil. 2:6-7).
 - He voluntarily experienced human weakness (John 4:6), though He was all-powerful (Heb. 1:3). He said only the Father knew the time of His return (Mark 13:32), yet He is all-knowing (John 21:17).
 - At times we see Jesus' divine nature at work; other times His human nature. But He maintained both.
 - He did this in order to relate to mankind (Heb. 2:17).

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