

Principles Of The Faith 10

The Person of Christ

Starting Points

- ▶ Jesus was the fullness of Deity in bodily form (Col 2:9)
- ▶ Jesus was BOTH fully God and fully man
- ▶ Jesus left behind some aspects of His glory (Phil 2:5-11)
- ▶ Yet Jesus was the perfect image of God (Heb 1:3, Col 1:15) and declares the Father to us (Matt 11:27; John 1:14,18; 14:9)
- ▶ Jesus had a real human body that matured (Luke 2:7,40)
- ▶ Jesus was mortal (He actually died on the Cross) Lk 23:46
- ▶ Jesus had a human mind that grew in wisdom (Lk 2:52, Heb 5:8)
- ▶ Jesus had emotions and actually was tempted and suffered but was yet w/out sin (Jn 12:27, 13:21, Matt 26:38; 8:10; Heb 4:15; 5:7,8)
- ▶ Jesus had real human needs -food, water, rest – Jn 4:6, 19:28

Starting Points 2

- ▶ Human nature was not originally created to be sinful and can exist without being sinful (Genesis 1 & 2; Gal 5:16-18)
- ▶ We were made to be God-indwelt (Genesis 2:7)
- ▶ Our bodies indwelt by God as His Temple (1 Cor 6:13-19)
- ▶ Therefore humans were always supposed to be God + Man
- ▶ Humans were always supposed to reveal God as the image of God
- ▶ Humans were always meant to be immortal, spiritual etc (see last lecture) and to be sons of God and brothers of Jesus Christ
- ▶ Humanity is not opposed to divinity, neither is it absolute divinity (we are not God) rather it is a God-indwelt image of divinity
- ▶ In Jesus Christ the image was the real thing!

Jesus Was Sinless

- ▶ God originally created us to be sinless
- ▶ Jesus was sinless
- ▶ Luke 2:40, 4:13; John 8:46, 18:38
- ▶ John 8:12, 29; 15:10
- ▶ Acts 2:27, 3:14, 4:30, 7:52, 13:35
- ▶ 2 Cor 5:21, Heb 4:15, 7:26; 1 Peter 1:19, 2:22, 3:18; 1 Jn 2:1
- ▶ Jesus body was especially prepared to be sinless: Matt 1:18-23, Heb 10:5-9, Rom 8:3
- ▶ That which is "born of God" is sinless: 1 Jn 3:9, Rom 7:17, 20
- ▶ Jesus experienced real temptation but the power of God within Him, His biblical beliefs and His godly nature made Him able to resist strong temptation Matt 4:1-11, Mk 1:12-13, Lk 4:1-13, Heb 2:18, 4:15, 16

Could Jesus Have Sinned?

- ▶ Scripture clearly affirms that:
 - a) Jesus did not ever sin
 - b) Jesus was tempted, these temptations were strong and He felt them enough to be our compassionate High Priest
 - c) God cannot be tempted with evil (James 1:13)
- ▶ Jesus felt real temptation in His human nature but not in His divine nature which was repelled by sin. Because the human nature was totally united with the divine nature Jesus did not (and could not) sin.
- ▶ His perfectly obedient body and the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit made Jesus perfectly able to resist sin
- ▶ But this was not automatic, it was a real decision for Him
- ▶ The first Adam was only a living soul
- ▶ The second Adam became a life-giving spirit
- ▶ Jesus as the Second Adam had a much stronger spiritual nature
- ▶ Jesus walked perfectly in the Spirit and was simply not able to be overcome by the lusts of the flesh (Gal 5:16)

Why Was Jesus Made Fully Human?

- a) For Representative Obedience as the Second Adam: Lk 4:1-13, Rom 5:18,19, I Cor 15:45-47
- b) To Declare God Clearly To Humans: Jn 1:14,18; 14:7-9, Heb 1:3
- c) To Be a Substitute And A Sacrifice (to die he must be made mortal) Heb 2:14-17
- d) To Be The One Mediator Between God and Man I Tim 2:5
- e) To Fulfill God's Purpose For Mankind To Rule Creation Heb 2:8,9; Matt 28:18; Eph 1:22; Rev. 3:21; Lk 19:17-19, I Cor 6:3
- f) To Be Our Example & Pattern In life I Peter 2:21; I Jn 2:6; 3:2-3; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom 8:29; Heb 12:3; Phil 3:10; Acts 7:60; I Peter 3:17-18, 4:1

Why Human...2

- g) To Undo The Works Of The Devil: I Jn 3:8
- h) To Be Born Under The Law To Break The Power and the Curse Of The Law: Galatians 4:1-5, 3; 10-14
- i) To Taste Death For Everyone: Heb. 2:9,10
- j) To Bear Our Sin, Sicknesses and Sorrows: Isaiah 53:4-6
- k) To Be The Pattern for Our Redeemed Bodies: I Cor 15:23, 42-44,49; Col 1:18
- l) To Sympathize As Our High Priest: Heb. 2:18, 4:15,16
- m) That He Might "Fill All Things" with Himself: Eph 4:10

Jesus Retains His Humanity

- ▶ Jesus resurrected body was still human in many ways and had the nail prints and ate food etc. Lk 24:39-42, Jn 20:25-27
- ▶ Jesus will return in the same way that He came Acts 1:11
- ▶ Stephen saw Jesus as the Son of Man Acts 7:56
- ▶ Saul saw Jesus as human Acts 9:5 and saw it as a "resurrection appearance" (I Cor 9:1, 15:1)
- ▶ John saw Jesus as "one like a Son of Man" (Rev. 1:13-17)
- ▶ He will drink wine in His Father's Kingdom (Matt 26:29)
- ▶ Jesus has a glorified and spiritual humanity, Jesus is humanity that has "put on the heavenly man".

The Deity of Christ (Grudem P. 543-563)

- ▶ The Word God (Theos) used of Christ:
John 1:1,18; 20:28; Rom 9:5; Titus 2:13; Heb 1:8; 2 Peter 1:1
- ▶ The Word "Lord" (kyrios) Used of Christ In An Obviously Religious Context: Luke 2:11, 1:43, Matt 3:3; Matt 22:44; Ps. 110; Heb 1:10-12; 1 Cor. 8:6, 12:3;
- ▶ Other Strong Claims To Deity: Jn 8:57,58 ; Rev. 1:8, 22:13;
- ▶ Dan 7:13,14; Col 2:9, Heb 1:1-3; Jn 5:20-25; 10:17, 16:15;
- ▶ Son of God used in respect to being equal w. God: Hn 1:14, 18, 34, 39; Jn 8:19; Jn 14:9; Jn 3:16,36; 20:31;



Jesus Had The Attributes of Deity

- ▶ **Omnipotence:** Matt 8:26-27; 14:19; Jn 2:11 & other miracles
- ▶ **Authority & Sovereignty:** Matt 8:27; 11:25-27; 28:18-20; Mk 2:5-7; Matt 5:22,28,32,34,39,44 (Jesus' sayings equal to Scripture),
- ▶ **Eternity:** Rev 22:13; Jn 8:58
- ▶ **Omniscience:** Mk 2:8; Jn 1:48; 6:64; 2:25; 16:30; 21:17
- ▶ **Omnipresence (promised):** Matt 18:20, 28:20
- ▶ **Indestructible Life:** Heb 7:16
- ▶ **Worthy To Be Worshipped:** Heb 1:6, Phil 2:9-11, Rev. 5:12, 13



What Happened When God Became Man?

- ▶ Jesus was fully God and fully man
- ▶ Jesus left His rank in Heaven behind to become as a servant (Phil 2:5-11) and as one "for a little while lower than the angels" (Heb 2:7-9) He left "equality with God" behind but He did not leave His divine nature behind
- ▶ Jesus was the fullness of Deity in bodily form (Col 1:19, 2:9) so he was not "partially God" in any way.
- ▶ God choosing self-restraint and humility is still God
- ▶ We are to be humble-minded and self-restrained and not to hold on to our privileges but rather to let go of them in order to serve others. We are to have the "mind that was in Christ Jesus" – the mind of love and service.



Three Errors

- ▶ **Apollinarianism:** Christ had a human body, divine mind and spirit (but how does that fully redeem us?)
- ▶ **Nestorianism:** Two totally separate persons in Christ, one human the other divine. Jesus was a single person not a plurality of persons. One person, two natures.
- ▶ **Monophysitism (Eutychianism):** blended natures. Only one nature which was a composite of both divine and human. Human nature absorbed into the divine nature. This results in Christ not being either fully God or fully man



The Two Natures

- ▶ Both natures were perfect, the human nature was a perfect human nature, made to be obedient
- ▶ The human nature related to human beings and to the created order (e.g. “tasting death” Heb 2:9) and was complete and whole
- ▶ The divine nature related to God the Father and to spiritual things (I only do what I see my Father doing...” Jn 5:19, 6:46) and was complete and whole.
- ▶ The human nature remained fully human “in substance” and the divine nature was fully divine “in substance” but there was not two different persons, rather that two natures were joined indivisibly and inseparably

Definition of Chalcedon (G. p 355)

- ▶ Not two persons but two natures
- ▶ Reasonable soul and body consubstantial (same substance as) us with regard to the Manhood
- ▶ Consubstantial with the Father as regards the Godhead
- ▶ The property of each nature being preserved “inconfusedly”
- ▶ Unchangeable, indivisible, inseparable,
- ▶ Like us in all things except sin

The Two Natures In Operation

- ▶ God is so complex and infinite and omnipresent that the Son of God can BOTH be in Heaven upholding the world by the word of His power and ALSO be in Christ asleep as a baby. For nothing is impossible with God
- ▶ The human nature existed in time (grew, was about 30 years old etc) and place (born in Bethlehem, taught in Capernaum, crucified at Golgotha etc) and was mortal while the divine nature was immortal and existed in eternity without regard for time and place.
- ▶ Jesus accomplished some of His greatest works while motionless! (bound in swaddling clothes at the incarnation, bore our sins – on the cross, and He rose from the dead – while dead, wrapped in a shroud and in the grave!)

Two Wills? Two Centers of Consciousness?

- ▶ Monothelites: Jesus had only one will, a view eventually rejected by the Church, to deny Christ a human will is to deny Christ a human nature.
- ▶ There was a degree of surrender of the human will required in the garden of Gethsemane
- ▶ Jesus human will could be tempted (God cannot be tempted)
- ▶ Jesus knew some things as God that His human nature did not know (the time of Christ’s return Mark 13:32) yet Jesus clearly knew all things (Jn 2:25; 16:30; 21;17)
- ▶ Christians are simultaneously in Christ and on earth and we do not know who we really are (Col 3;1-4, Eph 2:6, 1 Jn 3;1-4)