

# Jesus Christ: God-man

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

CHRIST CHURCH

WEEK 13

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graph TD; A[One Person] --> B[Two Natures]; B --> C[Human]; B --> D[Divine]
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*Jesus is GOD*

*Jesus Christ is 100% man and 100% God, not half and half*

## The Pre-Existence of Christ

**Jesus did not come into existence in Bethlehem. He has always existed as the Son.**

If you remember our lesson on the Trinity, you should recall that God has always been Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Three persons in the one being which is God. This means that The Son (Jesus) has always been the the Son. From before creation, God was Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In fact, you can see the Son (Jesus) all through the Old Testament.

**Isaiah saw Jesus**

In Isaiah 6, Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up, seated on His throne. In John 12, John quotes from Isaiah 6 and says, "These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him." In context, John says that Isaiah saw the glory of Jesus. It was Jesus (the Son) who was seated on the throne in Isa. 6.

**Moses saw Jesus**

God spoke to Moses in a burning bush in Exodus 3. However, the Bible clearly says, "And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush" (Ex. 3:2). It was THE Angel of the Lord in the bush. Yet, the angel of the Lord said, "Moreover

he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." (Ex. 3:6). Every instance of

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God - John 1:1**

THE Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament is the pre-incarnate Son.



Before Abraham was, I Am... John 8:58



**John 8:24**

for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.



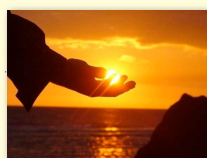
# Jesus is God

## Jesus Created All Things

Acting with the other Persons of the Trinity, the Son was the Father's Agent, or Instrumental Cause, in bringing all created things, excepting sin, into existence. (1 Cor. 8:6; John 1:3; Col. 1:16).

## Jesus Sustains All Things

The Son not only "holds together" all things (Col. 1:17) but also is "upholding all things by the Word of His power" (Heb. 1:3)



## Jesus Reveals the Father

As the eternal Word, the Son revealed the Father (Matt. 11:27). He did this by His creative work (John 1:3; Rom. 1:19-20), His giving OT revelation (John 1:1, 18), and by His earthly life and His words (John 1:14; 14:8-11; Rev. 1:1).

## Jesus Forgives Sins

Only God can forgive people their sins, since all sins are ultimately against Him. Jesus exercised the divine authority of forgiveness, which only belongs to God (Luke 5:20-25).

## Jesus Gives Life

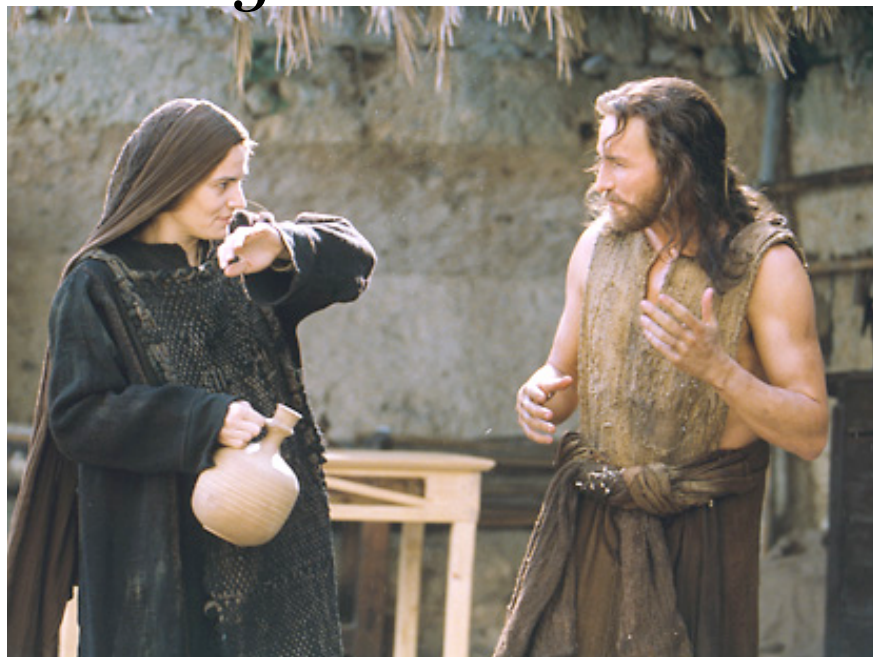
Jesus has the power to give spiritual life to those who trust in Him as their Savior (John 6:32-40). Also, He will raise all dead persons to physical life (John 5:21, 25).



## Jesus Exercises Judgment

Only God can judge people for their lifetime of behavior. Yet, knowing the hearts of all people (John 2:24-25), the Son of God will judge all people (John 5:22-23, 25-29)

# Jesus is Man

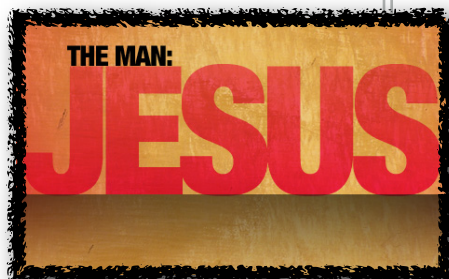


*Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. - Philippians 2:6-8*

## Jesus is also fully Human

Jesus never stopped being God. He never laid down the attributes of divinity. Instead, He "emptied" Himself and took on human flesh.

The fact of Jesus' humanity is shown by His prenatal development and birth, which were normal, natural processes



(Luke 2:5-7). The Lord also had a complete human nature: a body (Matt. 26:12), soul (26:38), and spirit (27:50). He experienced normal human development in body, human knowledge (Luke 2:40,

52), and spiritual awareness (Luke 2:46-50).

Jesus also experienced the sinless limitations of human nature like hunger (Matt. 21:18), sleep (8:24), weariness (John 4:6), and confinement to place (John 11:6-7).

He also experienced human emotions, including grief (Mark 3:5; John 11:35), love (John 11:36), agitation (John 12:27), astonishment (Mark 6:6), exultation (Luke 10:21), anger (Mark 3:5), trust (Luke 23:46), suffering (1 Peter 3:18), and compassion (Luke 7:13).

He was tempted as we are yet was without sin (Heb. 4:15). Finally, He died (Matt. 27:5; Heb. 2:9, 14-17). While physical death is a natural result of sin, this was not the direct cause of Jesus' death. Uniquely, He voluntarily laid down His life in obedience to the Father (John 10:17-18).



## Forever the God-Man

Jesus laid aside the rights and privileges of divinity and took the form of a man, being born in Bethlehem. He did not stop being God the Son, He simply laid aside the rights and prerogatives. Jesus, “made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” (Phil. 2:7).

When Christ died, He did not stop being fully God and fully man. He will forever be God and Man. Think about that for a moment. Right now, Jesus is in the presence of the Father and He is fully God and fully man. Therefore, when we go to be with Him, we will be with a very real Jesus. Colossians 2:9 says, “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” Notice that Paul uses the present tense. The fullness of God *dwells* (right now) in bodily form in Jesus. Paul wrote this after Jesus had ascended to Heaven.

Because He is both God and man, He is a perfect bridge to reconcile us to the Father. He atoned for our sins perfectly and continues to intercede for us.

If Jesus was not fully God, He would not have been a perfect, sinless sacrifice which would pay the price for the the Father’s divine wrath against mankind.

## The Hypostatic Union

History records great controversies arising over the exact nature of the relationship between Jesus’ divine and human nature. The biblical way to look at these two natures is called the “hypostatic union.”

Hypostatic is from the NT Greek word hypostasis which means “that which means nature or essential structure. Features of this union in Christ are:

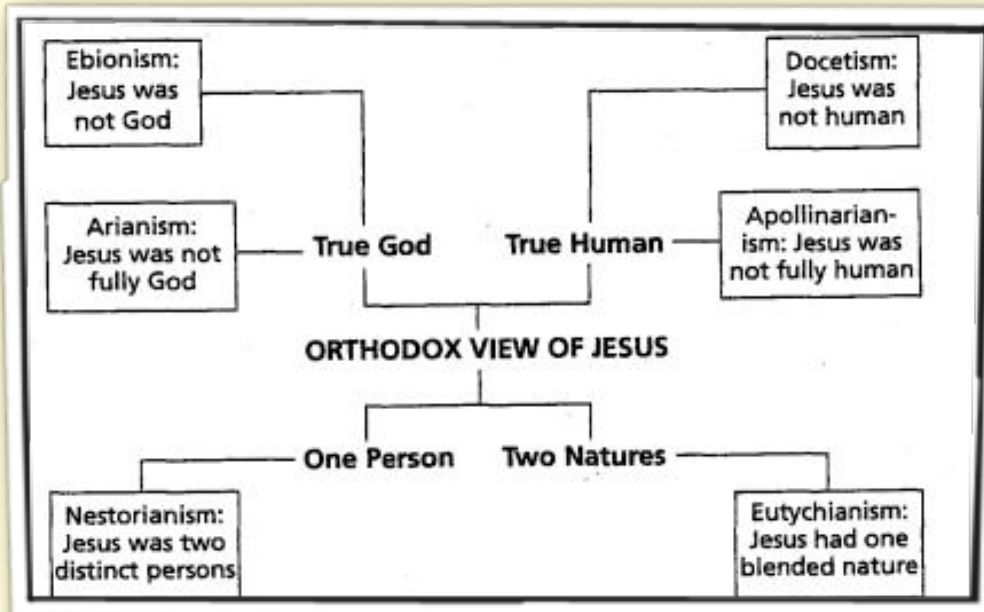
1. The divine and human natures are united in one personhood
2. The divine and human natures are inseparably united in His personhood, yet they are not mixed or combined.

Jesus was both God and man. These two natures are never mixed so as to loose their distinctiveness and combine to form a third nature. Yet, they also do not function independently like separate persons. He functions as all of God and all of man.

### Incorrect Views of Jesus

1. Docetism - Assert Christ’s deity but deny His humanity
2. Apollinarianism - Believe Christ has a human body, but no human mind or spirit. These are replaced by the divine.
3. Ebionism - Deny Jesus’ virgin birth, holding that He was the offspring of Mary and Joseph
4. Arianism - Jesus is the first created being.
5. Nestorianism - Deny that the two natures are united in the one person. (Jesus was two people, divine and human)
6. Etychianism (or Monophysitism) - They confuse the two natures of Christ, making them one that was more divine than human.

If Jesus was not fully man, He could not have represented man under the judgment of God. Only a man could receive the punishment for the sins of men.



# Warning: I find this fascinating, most don't

**The virgin birth of Christ is a miraculous event. Of course, it is miraculous because virgins don't have children. However, there is something even more fascinating about how God worked it all out. I remember teaching this to the youth one Sunday morning and they all looked at me like an idiot.**

In order for Jesus to be the Messiah, He must be in the line of David and rule one day from David's throne (Luke 1:32). The title to David's throne was transmitted through Solomon and his children (1 Chron. 28:6-7, Matt. 1:1-16, 20).

However, later King Jehoiakim burned God's Word (Jer. 36) and God said, "He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David" (Jer. 36:30). So

according to the Jews, the Messiah must come from David's line, but according to God, no one from Jehoiakim's line may rule. Later, God repeated this promise to Jehoiachin (Coniah), the last Judean ruler of David's dynasty. (Jer. 22:30).

How could Jesus be the Messiah if He must come through the line of David, but He cannot come through the line of Jehoiakim, David's descendent?

By His virgin conception the Lord Jesus avoided this divine curse and received the title to David's throne from Joseph, His foster father. Jesus did not come under the divine judgment, for He was not Joseph's actual son. Still, being Joseph's eldest legal son, He inherited the title to David's throne.



*Matthew 1 and Luke 3 show two genealogies of Jesus. Many have said that since these genealogies are not identical to each other, the Bible must contradict itself. However, a close reading will reveal that Matthew traces Jesus' lineage through Joseph's line and Luke traces Jesus' lineage through Mary's.*

*Heli is listed as the father of Joseph, who had 2 daughters. The first is Mary, and the other was Zebedee's unnamed wife (Matthew 27:56; John 19:25). When there were no sons to preserve the inheritance in accordance with the Law of Moses said (Numbers 27:1-11; Numbers 36:1-12), the husband would become the son upon marriage to keep up the family name. Therefore, Joseph, when he married Mary, became the son of Heli according to the Law of Moses and could legally be included in the genealogy.*



*Jesus is the rightful heir of all the promises of God. In Him we are complete.*

## Jesus: A True Son of David

Jesus was a true descendant of David through His mother, Mary, and her ancestor, Nathan, a son of David (Luke 3:23-31; 1 Chron. 3:5; Rom. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8). But Jesus was legally a descendant of David's royal line through Solomon and Joseph.

Consequently, because of His legal connection with Joseph, the lineal heir to David's throne, and His blood relation to David through His mother, Mary, the Lord Jesus is the last dynastic heir to David's throne and the only one who can legally rule Israel with God's blessing.



# Study Questions

1. After studying this, are there specific ways in which you not think of Jesus as being more like you than you did before?

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2. How does a clearer understanding of Jesus' humanity help you face temptations?

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3. What are the most difficult situations in your life right now? Can you think of any similar situations that Jesus might have faced?

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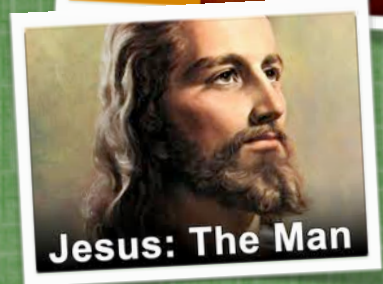
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*Jesus is not half God, half man. He is perfectly God and perfectly man. He is the only one able to bear our sins and save us for eternity.*

4. Does that encourage you to pray confidently to him?

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5. Can you picture what it would have been like if you had been present when Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I am?" What would you have honestly felt if you would have been in the crowd?

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6. Do you now understand Christ's deity better? In what ways do you now understand it more fully?

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7. Can you describe (and perhaps identify with) what the disciples must have felt as they came to a growing realization of who Jesus actually was?

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8. Do you think Jesus is the one person you would be able to trust with your life for all eternity?

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9. Will you be happy to join with thousands of others in worshiping around his throne in heaven?

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10. Do you delight in worshiping Him now?

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