

e ssentials

Faith in One Accord

1) TITLE: We Believe In the Deity and Humanity of Jesus Christ

2) INTRODUCTION

- A. Our support Scripture text for this lesson is John 1:1-4;14— *"[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. [4] In him was life, and the life was the light of men...[14] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."*¹
- B. What we believe...

"We believe that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son, who is the second Person of the Holy Trinity, who is fully God and fully Man and is without sin. He came to man and was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and was born to the virgin Mary; who came to earth to die for the sins of the world on a cross, was physically buried in a tomb and was raised from the dead defeating sin and death who then ascended to Heaven sitting at the right hand of God the Father as our present High Priest and Advocate who will return again to judge the living and the dead" (GRCC Statement of Faith).

- C. In his book *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis writes the following: *"I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [Jesus Christ]: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say.*

¹ All Scripture from the ESV—English Standard Version, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016)) unless noted.

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with a man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of hell. You must make your choice.

Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God.

But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that option open to us. He did not intend to" (Macmillan, 1952, p. 55–56).

- i. C. S. Lewis' words resonate today as they did when he first penned them many decades ago. We cannot make a claim about the historical Jesus Christ other than what Scripture says about Him—not only was He fully Man (His humanity) but must believe and accept His claim to be fully God (His deity)!
- ii. John 20:31 (CSB)—*"But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."*²
- iii. Dr. J. Vernon McGee wrote, *"John did not attempt to write a biography of Jesus Christ. He did not even attempt to fill in the life of Christ in areas not covered by the other Gospels. He wrote so that you might "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." It is through believing that you receive life and are born again. You become a child of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."*³

² CSB, *Christian Standard Bible* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2020).

³ J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible Commentary: The Gospels (John 11-21)*, electronic ed., vol. 39 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 176. Dr. John Vernon McGee (1904-1988), pastor, theologian, and Bible commentator who pastored the Church of The Open Door in Pasadena, California, and host to his ongoing worldwide Bible teaching radio ministry *Thru the Bible*.

D. KEY POINT

- i. Jesus Christ is an historical person as real as any historical figure that ever existed in all human history.
- ii. Jesus Christ *IS NOT* a figment of anyone's imagination or of human invention. One's denial, mockery, disrespect or unbelief does not invalidate Jesus's existence as God *and* Man.
- iii. Aside from the Bible, there are many secular historians like Josephus, Tacitus and other from 1st century AD of documents that have attested to Jesus's earthly existence.

- E. When we understand the identity of the historic Jesus Christ, we will understand who He is to humanity.

3) TRANSITION

- A. So, let's look into the importance of why believing in the Deity and Humanity of Jesus Christ is essential to our Christian faith.
- B. In our next study we will look into the Work of Jesus Christ.

TEACHING

I. The Deity of Jesus—He is FULLY God

- A. John 1:1-2 (NLT)—*"[1] In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He existed in the beginning with God."*⁴

⁴ NLT, Tyndale House Publishers, Holy Bible: New Living Translation (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015).

1. John 1:17-18 gives us Jesus's name the Word who was God made flesh—*"[17] For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. [18] No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known."*

- B. Now, the Gospel of John begins just like the Book of Genesis—*"In the beginning..."*
 1. However, the writer John under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit states that Jesus as The Word was in the beginning who was already in existence with God before time began claiming Jesus is God.

- C. Jesus shared all the attributes of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit including His pre-existence, His aseity.
 1. John 8:58 (NLT)—*"I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I Am!"* By calling Himself *"I AM"* was to claim He shared the same eternal attribute of the aseity of God—His self-existence.

 2. The apostle Paul wrote that Jesus who is the Messiah⁵ to be God in Romans 9:5 (NLT)—*"Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their ancestors, and Christ himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned. And he is God, the one who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise! Amen."*
 - a). Therefore, Jesus is fully human (*His human nature*) and fully God (*divine nature*).

 3. When Jesus used the title *"I AM"* —the Jewish leaders understood that He was claiming to be God and was equal to God, so much so, that they picked up rocks to stone Him for blasphemy.

⁵ *Messiah means anointed One. Christ is the Greek translation for the Hebrew title Messiah.*

D. As stated in our previous study on the Trinity, this was not the only time they heard Jesus use the words *I AM*—all found in the Gospel of John.

1. In John 6:35, Jesus said, *"I am the bread of life."*
2. In John 8, Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world."*
3. In John 10, Jesus said, *"I am the door."*
4. In John 10, Jesus said, *"I am the good shepherd."*
5. In John 11, Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life."*
6. In John 14, Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life."*
7. And in John 15, Jesus said, *"I am the true vine."*

E. Now, in Colossians 1:19 Paul stated that the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily in Jesus, *"For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell."*

1. Fullness means *"completeness; the state of a thing in which nothing is wanted; perfection."*⁶
2. *"Paul used the term fullness to refer to the complete embodiment of God. Christ is the only Intercessor for human beings and fully embodies all of God's nature (I Tim. 2:5). No other intermediary, whether person or group, is able to stand in our place before the Father. Only Jesus can do this."*⁷

⁶ Noah Webster, *Noah Webster's First Edition of An American Dictionary of the English Language*. (Anaheim, CA: Foundation for American Christian Education, 2006).

⁷ Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, *The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version* (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Col 1:19.

- F. Furthermore, Jesus *never* objected to anyone giving Him worship as was the case with one of His disciples Thomas.
1. When Thomas saw Jesus' resurrected physical body, he confessed—*"My Lord and my God!"* in John 20:28, who worshipped Jesus as his God.
 - a). Jesus is not a demigod (part god and part man) possessing a lesser divine status like some kind of minor deity we find in Greek or Roman mythology.
 - b). Jesus is NOT SIMILAR in deity but IS COMPLETELY DEITY deserving of our worship and praise!
- G. Peter confessed Jesus' Messiahship and deity. In Matthew 16:15-16 when Jesus was with His disciples He asked, *"[15] But who do you say that I am?" [16] Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*
- H. In Philippians 2:9-11, Paul wrote, *"[9] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*
- I. Jesus being FULLY God is essential to our Christian faith.

II. The Incarnation of Jesus—He is FULLY Man

- A. Now, Jesus who is the Word came down from heaven and became human like us.
1. John 1:14 says, *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

2. In other words, all who God is with all His divine attributes and essence is found in Jesus Christ, the immediate physical expression of God.
 3. John 1:1-2 and 14 reveals this truth—*"the Word (Christ) is said to be with God (i.e., in communion with and yet distinct from God) and to be God (i.e., identical in essence with God)."*⁸
- B. But here is the uniqueness of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, for *"He is God from all eternity and yet joined Himself to sinful humanity in the Incarnation."*⁹
1. *"The Incarnation of the historic Jesus of Nazareth is the doctrine that teaches that Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born to the virgin Mary. Jesus, God the Son has become fully human in time in order to die for the sins of humanity and defeat death by the power of his resurrection."*¹⁰
 2. The prophet Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be named *Immanuel* which means *"God with us"* speaking of Jesus's physical presence.
 - a). Isaiah 7:14 prophesied, *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*
 3. Centuries later Isaiah's words of Jesus's supernatural miraculous birth came to fulfillment. Matthew 1:18-25 says, *"[18] Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. [19] And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. [20] But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not*

⁸ Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Ryrie Study Bible: New American Standard Bible, 1995 Update, Expanded ed.* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1995), 1679.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 1679.

¹⁰ Jack Kilcrease, "Jesus' Incarnation," in *Lexham Survey of Theology*, ed. Mark Ward et al. (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018).

fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21] She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." [22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: [23] "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). [24] When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, [25] but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus."

a). Here's a key point about Jesus as the Son of God—He became fully human yet completely *retained* His deity.

C. Jesus being fully Man is essential to our Christian belief because to deny His humanity is to deny Him as our Redeemer. Why?

1. As God the Son, Jesus came down from heaven through a supernatural birth, THE INCARNATION, as the sinless man who would die for our sins on the Cross of Calvary.
2. The Incarnation of Jesus Christ is the pivotal moment in human history bridging God of heaven with humanity on earth who is the tangible physical expression of God who embodies God's love, grace and salvation.
3. 1st John 4:1-3 says, "*[1] Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. [2] By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, [3] and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.*"

D. Before we move on, consider Simeon in Luke 2:25-32, who "*[25] was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.*

[26] And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. [27] And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, [28] he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, [29] "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; [30] for my eyes have seen your salvation."

1. Here we have Jesus as fully Man in the form of a human baby (with bellybutton and all) yet was fully God for He is humanity's salvation.
2. To deny Jesus of His humanity is to deny Him of His deity and vice versa.
3. Furthermore, as I stated before, there is no gift of salvation without the Triune God, the Holy Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

III. The Personality of Jesus's Humanity

- A. But we must ask ourselves, what kind of person was Jesus? What do we know about His humanity or personality?
- B. When we meet a person we normally make our first impression by their appearance. In the New Testament, we are not given any description of His physical appearance.
 1. But in the Old Testament, Isaiah 53:2 (NLT) described the coming Messiah Jesus like this— *"My servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him."*
 - a). This is an outward description of an unimpressive man. There was no wow factor to His human earthly appearance.

- b). If we were living in the days of Jesus and saw Him at the temple, the marketplace, at His carpentry shop or in the street—we wouldn't give Him a second glance. A "common" looking man.
2. And in Isaiah 53:3 said this of Jesus, *"He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care."*
- a). The late Christian theologian Charles Ryrie once wrote that Jesus *"would experience sorrows but men would not recognize His worth."*¹¹
 - b). I like what Augustine once said, *"Christ's deformity is what gives form to you. If he had been unwilling to be deformed, you would never have got back the form you lost. So he hung on the cross, deformed, but his deformity was our beauty."*¹²
- C. Yet, Jesus was a person of profound HUMILITY. Philippians 2:5-8 says, *"[5] Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."*
- 1. He is our ultimate example of humility. Our disposition, our temperament should emulate and reflect those of Jesus.
- D. Jesus is RELATABLE with us. When His friend Lazarus had been dead for a few days, upon seeing Lazarus' sister Mary crying, Jesus was deeply moved in His spirit that

¹¹ Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Ryrie Study Bible: New American Standard Bible, 1995 Update, Expanded ed.* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1995), 1127.

¹² Crossway, *ESV Church History Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2023), 1071.

after asking where Lazarus was buried the Scripture said that *"Jesus wept"* (John 11:36).

1. Now, many Bible teachers and commentators give different reason for why Jesus wept. But what we see in Jesus as a human being is His ability to know what it means to lose, to grief, to experience anger and pain over a loved one.
- E. Jesus is CONSIDERATE of others. During a wedding, when the wedding party ran out of wine, Jesus turned water into wine in John 2:1-12 so that the wedding may continue, thus Jesus was considerate enough to help the wedding members avoid any social faux pa.
- F. Jesus is COMPASSIONATE. In Matthew 14, when He saw a great multitude Jesus healed the sick, and then at another occasion in Matthew 15 He fed four thousand people for they were hungry because He had compassion over them.
- G. But following His first miracle at a wedding by turning water into wine, at the temple Jesus expressed a RIGHTEOUS ANGER by making a whip of cords and drove out the money makers from the temple—(Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-46; and John 2:13-16).
1. Jesus was capable of having a good time at a wedding, but also capable of showing anger. This doesn't mean He was moody, but human.
- H. Jesus is TRUTHFUL. Jesus said, *"I am the Way , the Truth and the Life"*—(John 14:6). Because of His divine nature Jesus embodies truth.
- I. Jesus is FORGIVING. In Matthew 9:1-6, Jesus healed and forgave the paralytic's sins.
1. Since God can only forgive our sins, Jesus's ability to forgive anyone's sins affirms His deity.

- a). *"Jesus proved his authority to forgive sins by removing the physical consequences of sin."*¹³

2. In John 7:53-8:11 (NIV), while standing with the adulterous woman Jesus said,
"[10] Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"
[11] "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."
 - a). When Jesus said, *"Go and sin no more"* this is Jesus forgiving the woman.
*"Forgiveness demands a clean break with sin."*¹⁴

- J. Jesus VALUES humanity. Because we are made in God's image, this places humanity in a different level from all of His creation.
 1. And when sin entered into humanity through our rebelliousness and disobedience:
 - a). Out of His unmerited grace, God set into motion the plan of redemption.
 - b). It was through His Son Jesus who was to die for the sins of the world because of God's love for us.

 2. Galatians 1:4-5 (NLT)—*"[4] Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. [5] All glory to God forever and ever! Amen."*

 3. John 1:29—*"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

¹³ Charles L. Quarles, "Matthew," in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 1514.

¹⁴ Merrill C. Tenney, "John," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: John and Acts*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, vol. 9 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981), 91.

- K.** There is more we can say about Jesus' character that we can all relate to.
- 1.** In His humanity He is totally relatable to us without once sinning. So, in His humanity and in His deity Jesus is totally gracious and merciful to us.
 - 2.** As for Jesus's attributes, refer back to our study *"We Believe In the Trinity, the Triune God" Part 2*, who as the Second Person of the Trinity share the exact same divine eternal attributes of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.
- L.** Hebrews 2:17—*"Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people."*
- 1.** Charles Spurgeon said, *"Remember, Christ was not a deified man, neither was he a humanized God. He was perfectly God, and at the same time perfectly man, made like unto his brethren in all things."*¹⁵
 - 2.** *"Unless Jesus became fully human in every respect (except for sin), he could not represent believers as their high priest."*¹⁶
- M.** There are documents by historians who lived during and after Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension who recognized Him as a real historical person as real as any historical figure that ever existed in human history.
- 1.** Jesus Christ of Nazareth is not a figment of anyone's imagination or of human invention.
- N.** Since Scripture is the inerrant and infallible Word of God, by faith we believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

¹⁵ Elliot Ritzema, ed., *300 Quotations for Preachers* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012).

¹⁶ *Crossway Bibles, The ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 2364.

1. Jesus as the Word *is* God who exists throughout eternity as the sovereign Uncaused Cause of our universe and existence possessing all godly attributes.
 2. Jesus eternally co-exists within the Godhead as one of three distinct persons from that of the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- O. But the Scripture also revealed by *retaining* His deity, Jesus was also like us, human—a man. The only difference being that He was sinless unlike us.
1. His humanity is important for He understands every struggle, challenges, disappointments, grief, our sufferings, joy, happiness, even temptations.
 2. Hebrews 4:15-16 (CSB)—*"[15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. [16] Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need."*
 - a). Jesus is the great sympathizer for He identifies with humanity for He too was and is human.
 - b). Whatever emotions or sufferings we have endured in our lifetime this side of heaven, including being tempted, so did Jesus did while remaining sinless.
 - c). *"In their temptations, Christians can be comforted with the truth that nothing that entices them is foreign to their Lord. He too has felt the tug of sin, and yet he never gave in to such temptations."*¹⁷

¹⁷ *Crossway Bibles, The ESV Study Bible (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 2367.*

IV. CONCLUSION

A. In closing, we cannot make a claim about the historical Jesus Christ other than what Scripture says about Him—that He is fully God and fully Man for God’s inerrant and infallible Words says—*“[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God...[14] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... [29] Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”* (John 1-2;14; 29).

1. God the Father is the *initiator* in salvation because of His love for us.
2. And God the Son, Jesus Christ, *accomplished* the work of salvation the Father initiated Jesus to do on our behalf.
3. For Jesus is the fruition to the Father’s plan of salvation. Everything the Father does for our salvation, He does through Jesus who is fully God and fully Man.

B. For these reasons based on Scripture—

“We believe that Jesus Christ is God’s only begotten Son, who is the second Person of the Holy Trinity, who is fully God and fully Man and is without sin. He came to man and was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and was born to the virgin Mary; who came to earth to die for the sins of the world on a cross, was physically buried in a tomb and was raised from the dead defeating sin and death who then ascended to Heaven sitting at the right hand of God the Father as our present High Priest and Advocate who will return again to judge the living and the dead” (GRCC Statement of Faith).

To God Be The Glory Forever and Ever. Amen!