

GETTING TO KNOW JESUS: HIS PERSON & WORK

14 April 2021 | Week 2: Incarnate Christ

I. Review: Pre-Incarnate, Eternal Son

1) Testimony of the Old Testament

- i. Son of Man & Ancient of Days (Dan. 7:9-10, 13-14; Matt. 25:31-32)

"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed." - Daniel 7:9-10

- ii. Eternal Generation

2) Testimony of the New Testament

- i. Testimony of Christ (John 5:16-18, 8:58, 17:5)

"I and the Father are one,"... "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." - John 10:30, 33

- ii. Testimony of the Apostles

"Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever." -Rom. 9:5

"our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." - Titus 2:13

3) The necessity of Christ's divinity

II. The Incarnation

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 - John 1:14

"Nothing more marvelous can be thought of than this divine work: that true God, the Son of God, should become true man" - Aquinas

*Begotten by the Father, He was not made by the Father; He was made Man in the mother whom He Himself had made, so that He might exist here for a while, sprung from her who could never and nowhere have existed except through His Power
- Augustine*

The Infinite became an infant - Charles Spurgeon

1) Key Elements of the Incarnation

- a. The person of the Son became a human (Jn. 1:14, Phil. 2:6, Col. 2:9, Heb. 2:14-15, 1 John 4:2-3)
- b. Virgin Conception (Is. 7:14, Luke 1:35, 3:23)

*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.** - Matt. 1:18*

*"Joseph, son of David, do not 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).
- Matt. 1:20-23*

i. Why was it necessary that Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit?

1. Guards both the humanity and divinity of Jesus
2. Salvation is not by human effort but God's act of grace (John 1:13)
3. Continuity and discontinuity with Adam's descendants

a. Sinful nature not inherited

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. - Luke 1:35

c. Fully God, Fully Man

i. Two natures, One Person (Hypostatic Union)

ii. *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. This is the spirit of the antichrist, - 1 John 4:2-3*

Chalcedonian Definition of 451 A.D

"We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood truly God and truly man, of a reasonable soul and body; consubstantial with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly unchangeable, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the prophets from the beginning have declared concerning him, and the Lord Jesus Christ himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

III. The Humanity of Christ

"For all our dreams, our dark and frightened imaginings of God, *there is no God in heaven who is unlike Jesus...* 'Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father,' he says (John 14:9). God cannot be otherwise." - Michael Reeves, *Rejoicing in Christ* (14)

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. - Phil. 2:5-8

- 1) Human body (Luke 2:7)
 - i. Natural birth
 - ii. Grew & developed (Luke 2:40)

iii. Physical Weaknesses and Limitations

1. Thirst & Hunger (John 19:28; Matt. 4:2)
2. Grew Tired & Weary (John 4:6, Luke 8:23, 23:36)
3. No beauty or majesty (Is. 53:2)
4. Died (Luke 23:46)

2) Human Mind (Luke 2:52, Heb. 5:8)

- i. And Jesus increased in wisdom and understanding (Luke 2:52)
- ii. Limited knowledge (Mark 5:30, 13:32)

"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." – Mark 13:32

3) Human Soul & Holy Emotions

- i. Endured temptations (Heb. 4:15; 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:9)
- ii. Man of Sorrows (Is. 53:3)
 1. Soul is troubled (John 12:27)
 2. Troubled in spirit (John 13:21)
 3. Sorrowful to death

"My soul is very sorrowful, even to death"– Matt. 26:38

4. Jesus wept & cried tears (John 11:33-36; Heb. 5:7)

- iii. Marveled (Matt. 8:10)
- iv. Anger (John 2:15, 11:35)
- v. Joy (Heb. 12:1, Luke 15:7)

4) Sinless Human (2 Cor. 5:21, Heb. 4:15, I Peter 1:19)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. – Heb. 4:15

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. – 2 Cor. 5:21

5) The necessity of Christ humanity

- i. Revelation (Heb. 1)
- ii. Justice & Salvation (Heb. 2:14-17)

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 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 – Heb. 2:14-17

- iii. Mediation (I Tim. 2:5)
- iv. Perfect Example

IV. The Heart of Christ

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, **for I am gentle and lowly in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” - Matt. 11:28-30*

1) Gentle

But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. ⁸So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. - 1 Thess. 2:7-8

2) Lowly

3) Compassionate & Kind (Matt. 9:35-36, Matt. 14:14, 15:32)

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. - Matt 9:35-36

4) Sympathetic (Heb. 4:15)

5) Persevering

“whoever comes to me, I will never cast out” -John 6:37

6) Tender Friend of sinners (Luke 7:34, Matt. 11:19)

“in Jesus Christ, we are given a friend who will always enjoy rather than refuse our presence”- Dan Ortlund

7) Loving (John 13:1,17:23-26)

CASTLETON CORE: WEEK 2

Getting To Know Jesus: His Person & Work | Review Questions

1. Why was it necessary that the Son of God become a man?
2. Why is the virgin conception an essential doctrine of the incarnation?
3. In what ways do the Scriptures show Jesus' humanity?
4. What are the core characteristics the Scriptures reveal about the heart of the incarnate Christ?
5. How does the humanity of Jesus help in our suffering, both in body and soul?

Suggested Resources for Further Study

Books

Grudem, W. A. (2020). *Systematic theology: An introduction to Biblical doctrine*. Nottingham: IVP.

Ortlund, D. C. (2020). *Gentle and lowly: The heart of Christ for sinners and sufferers*. Wheaton: Crossway.

Reeves, M. (2015). *Rejoicing in Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, an imprint of InterVarsity Press.

Articles

Perfectly human by R.C. Sproul. (n.d.). Retrieved April 14, 2021, from <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/perfectly-human/>

Stamps, L. (n.d.). The humanity of Christ. Retrieved April 14, 2021, from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-humanity-of-christ/>

The person of Christ Part 2. (n.d.). Retrieved April 14, 2021, from <https://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/sermon/session-11-the-person-of-christ/>