

Heidelberg Catechism 35 – Jesus, the man!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Mary, an unmarried woman is pregnant, but her fiancé, Joseph, is not the father of the baby. Joseph marries her anyway. Mary has to give birth in a strange place with unhelpful people and without conveniences for birthing. The poor young woman somehow manages by herself to give birth to a baby boy even in the poverty-stricken circumstances. She takes care of herself and her baby – even her first child. Soon after birth, shepherds show up in the cow pen or a cow cave and announced to Mary that the baby is the means by which God brings peace to the whole world. Mary and Joseph then register for the census as Roman law requires and head home. Soon the story takes another turn. The family flees to bad Egypt and waits until King Herod dies, as he is murdering all boy babies. When it is finally safe, he returns to Nazareth. Sounds like a great movie!

But what is the most important thing of that story? Is it that Mary was sweet? Is it that Joseph was faithful? Is it that angels appeared? Is it that shepherds saw Jesus? Is it the “rags to riches” element? No! It was **Jesus taking on human nature of a virgin**. Hear about this today.

Our headings are:

How did Jesus get his Human Nature?

Why did Jesus get his Human Nature?

How do you respond to Jesus' Human Nature?

Our goals are: **That you will see Christ's incarnation afresh and so love him better, and then spread his message so the world can enjoy peace on earth and eventually in heaven.**

Q&A 35 What does it mean that He "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"? That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to Himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that He might become David's true descendant, in all things like us His brothers except for sin.

How Did Jesus Get His Human Nature?

1. Christ, the eternal natural Son of God, took on a real human nature.

It wasn't some fusion of man and God. He wasn't a man with a great soul. He wasn't God with an “apparent” human body but really a ghost. He was fully God who took on **a fully human body with a reasonable soul**.

Philippians 2:6 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

2. Christ's human nature was from Mary's own virgin body – so he was real flesh and real blood.

Christ had appeared before (pre-incarnate form in the Old Testament) but never from going through process of taking human flesh from another human. **He appeared to Adam in the Garden** every evening, to **Abraham in his tent in the heat of the day**, to **Jacob for a night fight**, to **Gideon to encourage him as he hid**, to **Moses in the green burning bush**, to the **3 Hebrew boys in the fire**, etc. But, when the time was right, he took on a full human nature... a body... and a reasonable soul.

Matthew 1:24-25 - Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her **till she had brought forth her firstborn Son...**

Galatians 4:4- But when the fullness of the time had come, **God sent forth His Son, born of a woman...**

3. The Holy Spirit miraculously used the Virgin Mary's body to create a body for Jesus.

Luke 1:35...The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of the Highest **will overshadow you**; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

This miraculous overshadowing of Mary was necessary because Christ could not have a biological earthly father.

If Christ had a biological earthly father, he would be sinful; sin would have passed through natural conception.

4. Jesus was a true, real, natural Son of David – a descendant of David – from both sides.

Luke 1:32 –“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of **His father David**.

Psalms 132:11 The LORD has **sworn in truth to David**; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the **fruit of your body**.

Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, **And a Branch shall grow out of his roots**. 2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him...

This real human Son **was the real, natural, eternal Son of God also**... and would be known as the **Son of God** when he came. (Quoting from Psalm 2:7) **Jesus was called “Jehovah” when he appeared before in his pre-incarnate form.**

5. But there were many other confirmations Jesus was fully human: Angels announced him, shepherds saw him as a baby, the wise men met him, he was circumcised, his parents cared for him, his friends lived with him, his brothers and sisters played with him, his followers ate with him, the Roman soldiers beat him, and his enemies slapped him. These all proved Christ was human.

6. There were many, many other activities that proved his humanity.

He **ate, drank, slept, got tired, was hungry, felt pain, was hurt in his spirit, and cried.**

Why Did Jesus Get His Human Nature

1. Christ had to be a man as required in the “seed” Gospel promise that God gave to Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed **and her Seed; He shall bruise your head,** And you shall bruise His heel."

It was the same promise to the Patriarchs: Christ would be a man. This is confirmed in Galatians.

Genesis 22: 18 -"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed...

2. Christ had to be fully man in order that he might bear God’s anger – dying for your sins.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in **appearance as a man,** He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, **even the death of the cross.**

Romans 5:15 - ... For if by the one man’s offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift **by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.**

If man sinned, man had to die. No animal or sinful person would suffice. God’s justice required this.

Isaiah 53:3-5 - He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. **5 But He was wounded for our transgressions , He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,** And by His stripes we are healed.

God could not wish away your sins. If he did, he would have contradicted his own nature.

A sinner could not die for another sinner. A sinner was not an acceptable substitute for a sinner.

3. Jesus Christ had to be fully man to obey in your human nature. (See also Hebrews 2:17)

Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was **in all points tempted** as we are, **yet without sin.**

The love letters of the Old Testament were not enough. Jesus had to make a personal appearance.

4. Yet, taking on human flesh did not take away from his Divine nature.

Jesus simply set aside some of his Divine glory to come into this world. (Philippians 2)

He was 1 person with 2 natures: a Divine nature and a human nature (body and soul).

How do you respond to Jesus’ Human Nature

1. Believe that because of Christ’s incarnation there will be peace and goodwill from God to man – a peace that passes all understanding...-a peace between God and sinful man.

Enemies from the beginning, God and man now have peace.

This promise of peace between God and man was often repeated in the Old Testament.

Micah said that Jesus would be peace incarnate.

Micah 5:5 And this **One shall be peace.**

Isaiah said that Jesus would be the “Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**

You get this peace now as well. Remember the old saying: **Know Christ, know peace. No Christ, no peace.**

Ephesians 2:14 For He **Himself is our peace**

Of course, this is speaking of **inward peace**...as Judah was already peaceful at this time.
Isaiah 26:3 **You will keep him in perfect peace**, Whose mind is stayed on You,
Because he trusts in You.

2. Since you have peace in your heart, bring glory to God by worshiping him.

Luke 2:13...there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth **peace, goodwill** toward men!"

You would naturally want to glorify God as you realize who God is and what God has done for you.

You are obligated to glorify God based on who he is and what God has done for you.

3. Since you have true peace, promote peace between man and man.

The Israelis and Palestinians will only stop fighting if they learn of and believe in Christ's work.

Isaiah 55:12 "For you shall **go out with joy**, And be led out with peace; **The mountains and the hills** Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall **clap** their hands.

Picking sides and protesting for one of them is not the answer. The Gospel is the answer.

4. Since you have true peace, promote peace between God and man through the God-man.

This is evangelism. If you don't share the Gospel (or support it) it shows you don't care about salvation and don't mind if they go to hell. Worse, it shows you don't care for God's glory. But you know better!

Nahum 1:15 Behold, on the mountains **The feet of him who brings good tidings**, Who proclaims peace! O Judah, keep your appointed feasts, Perform your vows. For the wicked one shall no more pass through you; He is utterly cut off.

Become known as a promoter of peace!

5. Rejoice.

Have joy –joy that lasts for all eternity – a joy beyond your ability to understand.

And this joy will not be just much joy, but great (mega) joy – great joy to all mankind.

Luke 1:14 "And you will have **joy and gladness**, and **many will rejoice at his birth**.

Romans 15:10 And again he says: "**Rejoice, O Gentiles**, with His people!"

This is why Apostle Paul commands that you must rejoice.

Philippians 4:4 **Rejoice in the Lord always**. Again I will say, rejoice!

Conclusion:

Christ, the eternal God, took a **real human nature from a real woman**. He had to **obey the law as a man** – and a male person as covenant head - so you could get credit for obedience. **He had to suffer and die** as a man to take your punishment for breaking God's law. He did this **to meet the righteous requirement** of God. The result of this is you **have true peace with God**, you have **goodwill from him**, and you have **a joy that lasts forever**.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Have you experienced this peace with God on account of Christ who became man to gain this peace?

Don't be afraid of him. If you haven't, plead with him for this peace. Yes, you are unworthy by yourself, but Jesus loved you and came to die for you.

2. Regularly ask the Lord to remind you how completely Jesus met all his demands for you even though you did not do anything to merit his salvation and you could not add as single thing to it. This will keep you humble.

3. Now worship God. Rejoice. Promote peace with God and men. Promote peace between men and men.

Finally, if you are not a Christian you have no peace in this world? Isa 57:21 "*There is no peace,*" Says my God, "*for the wicked.*" Yet, God can make peace with you if you accept by faith that Jesus lived and died for you as the God-man. Would you ask for this peace today?