

HC 48 – Understanding the Implications of Christ’s Two Natures

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus is present on earth by his Divinity and is present in heaven in his body. You heard that last week. Today we will move from the fact of the 2 natures to examining how these 2 natures are possible and why they were necessary.

Our headings are:

What are the 2 natures of the Christ?

What are the links and limitations of the 2 natures of the Christ?

Our goals are: That you might praise your Savior with more wisdom, knowing more fully who he is and what he has done for you.

48 Q. IF HIS HUMANITY IS NOT PRESENT WHEREVER HIS DIVINITY IS, THEN AREN'T THE TWO NATURES OF CHRIST SEPARATED FROM EACH OTHER?

A. Certainly not. Since divinity is not limited and is present everywhere, it is evident that Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of the humanity he has taken on, but at the same time his divinity is in and remains personally united to his humanity.

What are the two Natures of the Christ?

1. Before you hear about Christ's 2 natures, consider some false concepts of Jesus' nature so you will see why you need to get this doctrine right.

Some (including Jehovah's Witnesses) believe that Jesus was an incredibly great man, but not God.

Some believe Jesus is partially God and partially man – a hybrid.

Some (like Docetists) believe Jesus is God with an “apparent” but not real human body – like a phantom. (They feel this way because they think all flesh is evil, so if Jesus took on human flesh, he would be a participant of sin.)

Some (like Nestorians) deny Jesus is God and man.

Some (like Arians) considered Jesus as a demi-God – but not fully God.

Is any of these correct? What does the Bible teach?

2. Jesus is fully God in his nature.

a. The Bible teaches Jesus Christ is 100% God in his nature and being. He exhibits all the characteristics of being Divine. The 3 most notable were his omnipresence, his omniscience, and his omnipotence.

b. Many, like Stephen, reasserted Christ's omnipresence based on what the Old Testament taught. Jesus cannot be restricted to any place. He is near and yet he is far – meaning he is omnipresent.

Acts 7:48 "However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: 49 'Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool...

Isaiah 66 shows Christ's omnipresence. He is on earth and in heaven at the same time. There is no place where he is not!

c. Jesus is omniscient in that he knows all things, including heart of each man.

John 1: 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

d. Jesus personally assured his disciples of his omnipotence-given from all eternity.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

He is omnipotent– and showed it by raising the dead and raising himself from the dead.

Those who argue that Jesus emptied himself of his Divinity so that he was somehow less Divine when on earth (Kenosis theory) – misinterpret Philippians 2.) Look at what it says:

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no (low) reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Jesus simply hid his Divine glory, not his Divinity, when he came as the suffering Son of Adam to redeem the world from sin. Jesus did not use his Divine power, and glory to short-circuit the process of redeeming man. No, he hid his glory and went to the cross. And if you look at the context of Philippians 2, Apostle Paul was warning the Philippians against selfishness. He wanted them to set aside their own honor to serve others. That's what Jesus did when he came!

e. Now combine all of these things to other evidences and you will see Jesus was fully Divine:

He forgave sins. Mk 2:10.

He accepted worship. Mt. 14:33.

He created the heavens and the earth. John 1:3. Colossians 1.

f. Jesus claimed to be God. He was executed for claiming to be God!

John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because he not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was his Father, **making himself equal with God.**

g. Jesus had to be fully God in order to bear the full extent of God's justice and save many at the same time. An ordinary man or angel could not do it.

3. Jesus has a fully human nature- a body.

Consider proof of his human body.

a. The Bible says Jesus became human...and those who saw him knew he was human.

John 1:14 And the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus did not change his nature when he became man. He simply assumed a human nature along with this Divine nature. He called himself a man. Others called him a man. (John 8:40)

b. He had to be man to complete what Adam could not complete! Adam failed to keep the covenant as a man.

c. Look at the details of Jesus' life that further prove his humanity.

Jesus was **born of Mary**, the **oldest of her many children.**

His **family line** is listed in Matthew 1, and Luke 3.

He **grew up like other children.**

He **grew in wisdom and stature.** Luke 2:52 "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

He grew tired. Mark 4:38 - But He was in the stern of the boat, asleep on a pillow...

He was hungry so he ate grain. Matthew 4:2 "And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry."

He was thirsty. John 4: 7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."

He was circumcised. No phantom is circumcised.

He cried. John 11:35 - "Jesus wept."

It is this human body that died that we celebrate in the Lord's Supper.

d. Look at direct words of Scripture that showed his humanity!

"Fruit of the loins of David" according to the flesh; "born of the seed of David" according to the flesh; "the seed of David"; "fruit of the womb of the virgin Mary"; "born of a woman"; "a shoot from the root of Jesse"; "the offspring of Judah "having descended from the Jews according to the flesh; "from the seed of Abraham"; and "was "made like his brothers.""

4. Jesus Christ has a human soul and the Bible proves it.

a. Jesus was tempted in his soul but did not sin. The Devil tempted him in 3 major ways. He was tempted all his life.

b. Jesus was moved with compassion in his soul when he saw the needy. Matthew records 6 times Jesus was moved with compassion. (Matthew 14:14, etc.)

c. Jesus was sad. Mark 3:5 "...He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts."

d. Jesus was hurt in his soul when he was abandoned and betrayed.

Mark 14:33 And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be **troubled and deeply distressed.** 34 Then He said to them, "My soul is **exceedingly sorrowful**, even to death..."

Jesus' disciples fell asleep and emotionally abandoned him... Now wonder he cried out in anguish!

5. Jesus Christ could not be your prophet, priest, and king if he did not have a fully human body and a fully human soul.

The Links and Limit of the Two Natures of the Christ

1. How can you link the 2 natures of Jesus- the human nature with the Divine nature?

a. Jesus himself linked his humanity with his Divinity; he showed he was man and God.

John 3: 13 "**No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down** from heaven, that is, the **Son of Man who is in heaven.**

Jesus Christ came from heaven. At the same time, he said he was the Son of Adam (man), meaning he was fully human.

b. The Apostle Paul links the 2 natures of Jesus directly as well.

Colossians 2:9 **For in Him** dwells all the **fullness of the Godhead bodily;**

Those who argue Jesus was only God, sin. Those who argue he was only man, sin. Those who emphasize his humanity over his Divinity, sin. Those who emphasize his Divinity over his humanity, sin. Jesus was 100% human and 100% God.

2. How can these 2 natures happen?

It is a mystery. But something that is a mystery may be true...

3. Why was the link necessary between Christ's humanity and Deity necessary?

He had to be God so his sacrifice would have infinite value to save the world. Being a man was necessary, (because man sinned, man had to die) but it was not enough.

Psalm 130:7 O Israel, **hope in the LORD**; For with the LORD there is mercy, And with Him is abundant redemption. 8 And He **shall redeem Israel From all his iniquities**.
Ten thousand young bulls would not have been enough! Doing your best wasn't good enough!
And if Jesus were only human without his Divinity, though he was perfect, he could only save one man.

4. Now consider the limits of the 2 natures that are in the 1 person- your Redeemer.

a. Jesus' Divine nature has no limitations. He is the Creator of everything seen or unseen...he is the Sustainer of all things. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. This nature did not die in the grave.

b. Jesus' human nature (his human body and his human soul) has limitations. His human nature died in the grave. Even Jesus' human mind was limited.

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

He body could only be in one place at one time. For example, noticed Jesus came "late" to his sick friend's house. Even though he was nearby, his physical body wasn't at Lazarus' house.

John 11: 21 Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, **if You had been here**, my brother would not have died.

5. These 2 natures are bound forever.

Jesus must continue to be your Savior as God and man in order to save you. Do you see how precious you are to him? The Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth took on a human nature for you...nail scars, spear holes, and all. (Some people won't even put on a jacket and go into the cold for you...or won't answer the phone...to avoid being asked to do something.) You Savior took on human nature!

John 20:26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" 27 Then He said to Thomas, "**Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side...**

Conclusion:

Jesus has 2 unmixed natures in 1 person: Divine and human. **As God** he is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. **As man**, he is body and soul, and limited. **Both natures were necessary for your salvation** and both natures had to be inextricably linked. He had to be God to fully take God's punishment for the world and free mankind from judgment. He had to be man because only man could be punished for man's sins. He could not be God alone otherwise he would be unjust. He couldn't be man alone...or he could only die for one...

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Because of Jesus, God cannot make any more demands on you for your salvation. Never! Let this sin in!

2. Celebrate that knowledge in your heart, with your family, and in your church. Worship God as he says...Get to know the Psalms we sing...practice at home so you can sing with understanding. Teach your children to worship at home – worship the one who did for you what no one else could. Listen to sound preaching- on Sundays and throughout the week!

3. Make the effort in your home, in your circle of family and friends, in your church, and as far as God would permit you, to show how grateful you are for Jesus' work. Work by living a holy life in front of others! Be truthful in your speech. Be loving in your actions. Be sincere in your promises. Give them the Gospel!

Finally: Is Jesus your infinite God/Man Savior? If he isn't, you are still in your sins, will die in your sins, and will suffer eternally for your sins. But open your eyes and see that you can avoid this most horrible future by asking God to take away your sins because of Christ's work.