

BC Art.19– The Necessity of Christ’s Two United Natures

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Not long ago **you saw proof that Jesus is God.** And the last time you saw that **Christ has a real human nature** – body and soul, born of the line of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, David, and **born from the substance of his mother.** He **showed he was human** by his suffering hunger, thirst, and tiredness. He was seen and touched by others. He cried. **He suffered emotional hurt as well.**

But it was not sufficient to prove that Jesus was God and that Jesus was fully man. You **have to know how his Divine and human natures work together** and **why those two natures worked together.**

Our headings are:

The Relationship of Christ’s Two natures

The Purpose for Christ’s Two Natures

The Heresies about Christ’s Two Natures

Our goals are: **That you learn that Christ was truly man and truly God in 2 distinct natures permanently joined together,** and that you will **see the necessity and benefits of Christ being one person with two distinct natures.**

We believe that by this conception概念the person of the Son is inseparably united and connected with the human nature; so that there are not two Sons of God, nor two persons, but two natures united in one single person; yet each nature retains its own distinct properties性能. As, then, the divine神圣nature has always remained uncreated, without beginning of days or end of life, filling heaven and earth, so also has the human nature not lost its properties but remained a creature, having beginning of days, being a finite nature, and retaining all the properties of a real body. **And though He has by His resurrection given immortality不朽to the same, nevertheless He has not changed the reality of His human nature;** forasmuch所以 as our salvation and resurrection also depend on the reality of His body. But these two natures are so closely united in one person that they were not separated even by His death. Therefore that which He, when dying, commended into the hands of His Father, was a real human spirit, departing from His body. But in the meantime the divine nature always remained united with the human, even when He lay in the grave; and the Godhead did not cease to be in Him, any more than it did when He was an infant, though it did not so clearly manifest itself for a while.

The Relationship of the two Natures

1. We have already established in studying Article 10, that Jesus is truly God – having a Divine nature. A few reminders!

a. Jesus claimed to be God and accepted being called 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.**

John 10:30 "I and My Father are one."

It was this claim to be God that caused his execution.

John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

b. He pardoned sins, something only God can do.

Mark 2:10 "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" —He said to the paralytic瘫子,

c. He accepted worship, something only God does.

Matthew 14:33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

d. He was the Creator, and since God was the Creator, he was God.

John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

2. But Jesus, while he was fully God, was also fully man. We have already touched on his incarnation – which showed his humanity – but we will touch on a few other things.

a. Jesus was born of Mary, the oldest of her many children. Matthew 13:55.

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

c. He grew in wisdom and stature. He grew like other children, but he exceeded then in godliness. But he did not know everything as a man. As a man, he did not even know when he would return the 2nd time. Luke 2:52

d. He grew tired, like when he was in the boat, and needed sleep.

e. He was hungry – real hungry – and so could be tempted. Matthew 4:2

f. He was sad and cried. He had groanings of the soul for physical things (like when Lazarus died) and for spiritual things (like when he mourned because Israel would not return to God. (John 10). Mark 3:5 And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts. John 11:35.

g. He was thirsty. He could not use a shortcut by creating satisfaction miraculously 奇迹般地. He had to experience full thirst in this body. John 4: 7

3. And remember some of the obvious proofs that Jesus indeed was a man – a real man. Look at the words of Scripture!

"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"—for he "assumed Abraham's seed" was "made like his brothers

4. These two natures (God and human) were inseparably linked, but not mixed. His Divinity remained Divine. His human body kept its nature, and was glorified, as your human body will be glorified after the resurrection. **Even when Jesus was in the grave, his Divinity remained in his body. His Divinity could not die.** So his human and Divine nature did not mix.

5. What is particularly noticeable about this doctrine is that you cannot find an explanation of how these 2 natures could exist in 1 person. Rather, you have proof from the Scriptures that they do exist together. The human mind is limited and cannot understand difficult things. So don't try to explain "how" Jesus could be a man with a body and a soul, and God at the same time.

The Purpose for the two Natures

Wherefore we confess that He is very God and very man: very God by His **power to conquer death**; and very man that He might die for us according to the infirmity 体弱 of His flesh.

1. Jesus had to be God because only God has the power in himself to conquer death and only he had the great power to free the whole world from death's condemnation. A mere human could not conquer death for himself, let alone conquer death for the whole world. Look how Jesus taught that he had the power to do this!

John 10:18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. **I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again...**

You can only be a Christian if you believe Jesus is God, for without him being God you would still be in your sins.

2. Jesus had to be man, for since man sinned, man had to die. God's justice and God's nature demand this. You can only be a Christian if you believe that Jesus was fully man, for without him being fully man, you, as a man, would have to die for your own sins. A thousand goats could not suffice for you. You may not give money to expiate for your sins as Islam teaches. "Doing your best" as the West teaches is an abominable sacrifice to bring to God to try to please him.

3. But since Christ, while also God, is the second Adam, all the benefits he gained (perfect righteousness) came to you, just like how all the curse of the 1st Adam came to you.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, **so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.**

4. On a side note, deBres, the writer of the Confession, was under severe persecution 严重迫害 when he wrote the Confession, and was eventually beheaded by Roman Catholic controlled authorities. Yet, because he knew how critical this doctrine was to the hearts of men, spent much time explaining this doctrine. This doctrine has not declined in importance. It can't. And at a time when **there is an increasing attempt to make Jesus simply into a moral example,** then you must understand this doctrine well and accept it.

5. Ultimately, the ground for Christ taking on a human nature while being true God, is love. Let me illustrate this this way: Imagine a husband - perfect husband – whose wife goes and commit adultery multiple times with others and has no interest in coming back. That husband then chose to go and **do whatever it takes to get his wife back**. He couldn't send an emissary 密使. He had to do it himself. He had to take on a truly human nature!

Profanations About Christ's Two Natures

1. Eutychus (c378-452) wrongly believed Jesus had 1 nature – his 2 natures formed something completely new. **This meant that Jesus was neither true man nor true God.** His natures became polluted by the other. **It is like mixing a hot and cold liquid** – the result is neither hot nor cold liquid. So Christ's human nature became semi-god-like, and his Divine nature became somewhat humanlike.

Martin Luther held a watered down version of this heresy. He believed that: **Jesus' human nature has taken on board this divine characteristic of omnipresence 无处不在 and is therefore everywhere present, including in man's body.** This led to Luther's doctrine of consubstantiation 实证. This doctrine teaches that Christ is really physically present on top of, alongside of, or underneath the elements of the Lord's Supper. But we believe that Christ's body is in heaven, and his Divinity is present. So the bread we eat and the wine we drink are not parts of his physical body.

2. Nestorius, in the 5th century, taught that Christ has 2 natures that were completely separated from each other. It was like **mixing oil and water**. He argued that the Divine Jesus came to live in the body of a human Jesus. He was wrong. **If this were true, then Jesus would not be fit to die as he would not have been a full God-man from conception,** nor would he have the power to save. Rather, Christ's human nature (body and soul) and his Divine nature had to be inextricably 密不可分 linked so he would meet God's lawful requirements.

3. The Jews accepted Jesus' humanity, but not his Divinity. This view rejects Jesus as a fit sacrifice for sins. Unitarians 一神论者和 liberals 自由主义者 deny Christ's Divinity. Generally, they believed he **was a good man who was a good example to imitate** 模仿. They even deny his sacrifice on the cross for sins as essential. Rather, they teach that Jesus simply taught self-sacrifice. Heresy!

4. The Greeks accepted his Divinity but not his humanity. To them, Jesus only seemed human. This Greek heresy is known as "Docetism," from the Greek word "to appear, to seem." This view rejects Jesus as a fit sacrifice for sins.

Conclusion:

Christ is 1 person with 2 distinct natures: truly God, and truly man. **He had to be truly God and truly man!** For if he were not God, you would still be in your sins and heading for hell this Sabbath Day. No other person in the world was great enough to be able to take the full justice of God! **He had to be truly God and truly man!** For if he were not man, you would still be heading to hell this Sabbath day. For only a man could die for the sins of man. That was God's law.

Brother and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Society wants to make Jesus as a man of good example. Even evil politicians, for example, like to quote Jesus saying: Do unto others as you would have them do to you. Now it is true that Jesus showed love, mercy, and compassion on people. So if you simply look to Jesus that way and imitate him, the world likes you. And since many people want to be liked by man more than they want to be liked by God, they simply imitate Jesus.

2. But treating Jesus this way denies the necessity of his 2 natures and doing this is really an **attempt to hide the great work of Christ and rob him** of the consequent praise of those who look to him for salvation. **So do not let Jesus see you as a robber – especially a robber of his things!**

3. Proudly announce Christ as fully man, and fully God, so men would look to him and be saved.

Finally, if you are not a Christian: No one can ever hope for salvation apart from this God-man. You have many sins on your account, and will die with your sins on your head, unless you appeal to the infinite God-man for your salvation. Please do so today.