

Heidelberg Catechism 35 – Jesus had to be fully human!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The story of how Christ took on humanity is one of the most fascinating stories in his story.

Mary, a betrothed 已许配 woman is pregnant, but her fiancé, Joseph, is not the father. He marries her anyway. She 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 the baby. 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 world. Then Mary and Joseph registered as the law required and headed home. But soon the story takes another turn. The family must flee to bad Egypt and waits until King Herod dies, as he tries to murder all the boy babies. There are so many twists and turns in the story it makes it all the more exciting and moving. And you will be bombarded with these scenes in a few weeks. But the most important point of the story is not the godly Virgin or the faithful Joseph, **but of Jesus taking on human nature** – a fully human nature.

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 道成肉身 afresh and so love him better, and then spread his message so the world can enjoy peace on earth and 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.

问35：“因着圣灵感孕，从童贞女马利亚所生”是什么意思？

答：意即神永恒的儿子--他现在，永远都是永恒的真神--

因圣灵的运作，自己取了人性和由童贞女马利亚而来的血肉，为要叫他也可作为大卫的真后裔，凡事与他的弟兄相同，只是没有犯罪。

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. 反倒虚己，取了奴仆的形像，成为人的样式。

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

2. Christ's human nature was from Mary's body, a virgin. So he was real flesh and real blood. Christ had appeared before (pre-incarnate form) 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 fight, to Gideon to encourage him, to Moses on the mountain in the 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 - a fully human nature.

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, born under the law,

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 Christ was a true real Son of David – a descendant of David – from both sides. Rom 1:3, 9:5

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 and eternal Son of God also...and would be known for being 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, many other confirmations that Jesus was fully human: The **angels** announced him, the **shepherds saw him as a baby**, the **wise men met him**, 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 who slapped him**. These all proved that 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 族长 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. 他被藐視，被人厭棄，多受痛苦，常經憂患。他被藐視，好像被人掩面不看的一樣，我們也不尊重他。 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 违背 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 our 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. See Philippians 2:7. He simply set aside some of his Divine glory to come into this world. He was one person with two 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... It is 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**.

This promise of peace is experienced in the New Testament as well.

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. Remember the old saying: Know Christ, know peace. No Christ, no peace.

Isaiah 26:3 **You will keep him in perfect peace**, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

2. Bring glory to God. This is the result of having peace. This is being completed in every Christian's life.

You can only worship God because you have peace with him.

Luke 2:1-14 - And suddenly 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有责任 to glorify God based on who he is and what God has done for you.

3. Promote peace between man and man. The Israelis and Palestinians will 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.

4. Promote peace between God and man through the God-man. This is evangelism.

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.

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.

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 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 get credit for obedience. **He had to suffer and die** as a man to take your punishment for breaking the law of God. He did this **to meet the righteous requirement** of God. The result of this is that you **have true peace with God**, you have **goodwill from him**, and you have **a joy that lasts forever**. You have peace and joy now even with enemies around.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Do experience this peace with God on account of Christ, or are you afraid of him because you feel unworthy because of your sins. If you are sometimes afraid of God (or man) it is because you don't realize in fullness what Christ has accomplished for you.

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

3. Then 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?