

Epiphany Bible Class
Christology (The Study of the Person of Christ)
Session 1: Jesus as True God and True Man

January 2021

Why study Jesus as God and man?

1. Read Galatians 3:23; 4:4-5, Romans 5:19, 2 Corinthians 5:14, and Romans 6:4. On account of what works of Christ are we made righteous because Jesus is a man?
2. Read Habakkuk 1:13, Romans 5:19 (again), Psalm 49:7-8, and Mark 10:45. On account of what works of Christ are we made righteous because Jesus is God?

Summary Quotes on the Importance of Jesus Being Both God and Man

“It was necessary for Him to be a man that He might suffer and die; but as no mere man could bear the sin of the human race, together with the wrath of God and the curse of the Law, nor satisfy infinite divine justice, nor overcome death, hell, and the devil, it was necessary that He should at the same time be true God.”

*--F.C.D. Wyneken,
second president of the LCMS and
first president of Concordia Theological Seminary
in Kleiner Katechismus*

“We Christians must know that if God is not also in the balance and gives the weight, we sink to the bottom with our scale. By this I mean: If it were not to be said, God has died for us, but only a man, we should be lost. But if ‘God’s death’ and ‘God died’ lie in the scale of the balance, then He sinks down, and we rise up as a light, empty scale. But indeed, He can also rise again or leap out of the scale; yet He could not sit in the scale unless He became a man like us.”

--Martin Luther

Theological Definition:

God’s plan of salvation, which depends on Jesus being God and man and taking our place under the Law to pay for our sin by His death, is the

Divinity and Humanity—Definition and Scriptural Proof

3. Who is God, according to the Bible?

God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (three persons in one being – Mt 28:19), who creates, redeems, and sanctifies of all things, known through His creation and through the Son.

God is spirit (John 4:24), eternal (Psalm 90:1-2), unchanging (Malachi 3:1), almighty (Genesis 17:1), all-knowing (Psalm 139:1-4), all-present (Jeremiah 23:24), holy (Leviticus 19:2), just (Deuteronomy 32:4), faithful (2 Timothy 2:13), good (Psalm 118:1), merciful (Jeremiah 3:12), gracious (Exodus 34:6-7), love (1 John 4:8), and one/simple (not composed of parts – Deuteronomy 6:4 and 1 Corinthians 8:4 – the fullness of God is present in each person).

4. So, how do we know that Jesus is God?

5. What does it mean to be man, according to the Bible?

Human beings are animal creatures of God (Genesis 1:25-26; 2:7; 6:17; Acts 17:21), consisting of body and soul (1 Thessalonians 5:28), created male and female after the image and likeness of God to exercise dominion over God's creation (Genesis 1:26-27).

6. How do we know that Jesus was a man?

The Peculiarities of Christ's Human Nature

7. How is Christ's human nature different from ours? Read Luke 1:35 and Hebrews 4:15.

8. How was Jesus sinless?

9. Was it possible for Jesus to sin?

Theological Definition:

Christ's human nature is impersonal in the sense that he already existed as a person as the Son of God from eternity. See Genesis 1:3 and John 1:1.

Challenges with Heresies

10. A heresy is a belief of teaching that is contrary to orthodox Christian teaching. There are several significant heresies concerning the person of Christ from the early church that still persist today.

A. Is it possible that Jesus have only "appeared human"? **DOCETISM**

Who teaches this today?

B. I believe that Jesus is truly God in name and in his being, but I would say he's God in terms of performing god-like functions. He's not of the same being or essence of the Father. That's why Jesus says, "My Father is greater than I" (John 14:28). **SUBORDINATIONISM/ARIANISM**

Who teaches this today?

C. If God became man in Christ to be obedient for us (1 John 1:7) and endure our suffering all by himself (Galatians 4:4-5), then why should we do any good works? **PELAGIANISM**

Who teaches this today?

D. Perhaps Jesus was just a man.

Who teaches this today?