

THE HUMANITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Among those who claim the name “Christian” there have been five major views, with many variations, concerning the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, these are:

1. That it is of little or no importance whether Jesus Christ ever actually existed.
2. That Jesus Christ is God, that is, deity. He appeared as man but was God and only God, taking on the appearance of man.
3. That Jesus Christ is man, only man. A good man, a great man, but only a man.
4. That Jesus Christ is an offspring of God, less than God, but greater than man. A special man.
5. That Jesus Christ is God, absolute deity, and without ceasing to be God, became man, absolute humanity.

The first 4 views are based on an emotional not an intellectual position. The assumption is usually made that “Christianity” is a theology of love, concern for others, and being and doing good. The emphasis is worship with little interest in a solid, Bible based, systematic theology. After all, if this is what it means to be a Christian then it is of little or no import whether Jesus Christ was really God, or really man, or for that matter, ever existed at all. Thus, in the final analysis, this becomes, as Warfield says, a Christless Christianity.

To be sure, Christians have always worshiped the Lord Jesus Christ but worship without intellect is confusion. In a word, those who base their theology on emotion are left with no need for a kinsman redeemer, no one who is both qualified and willing to redeem, and in so doing have denied the very basis of Christianity; the total depravity of man, the condemnation of sin, and the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

In addition, some of those who teach that Jesus Christ is man, and only man, do so on the theory that when He became man He ceased to be God. In doing this they have a God who can be God and then cease to be God, that is, no God.

If the leopard can not change his spots and the Ethiopian his skin is it not reasonable that God can not be God and then not be God? This is not the God of the Bible. It shows a total lack of understanding of the eternality and the unity of the Godhead.

Those who teach that Jesus Christ was neither God nor man also have no sound Biblical theology and are usually considered a cult. They have a super man who is not only a liar, but who cannot be their kinsman redeemer. In addition there is no Biblical understanding of the sinfulness of sin and the requirements of the terrible price paid for our redemption.

Although a great number in the main stream 'theological community' today teach either 2 or 3, the Biblical truth has always been that Jesus Christ is God of very God who, without ceasing to be God, became man of very man.

For those who believe that the Scriptures are verbally and plenary inspired, there is only one doctrine presented by all Scripture, without exception, and that is the doctrine of the deity as well as the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The truth of the deity and the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ, known as the doctrine of the two natures, is not only the teaching of each of the New Testament books but is also declared and prefigured in type in the old testament. The Lord declared that the scriptures were the declaration of Himself and it is our responsibility to see in them the testimony of His person and His work.

Just a few examples:

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

“her seed” - His humanity

Rom 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

“God of peace” - His deity

Ex 25:10 ¶ And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof.

Ex 25:11 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about.

“the wood” - His humanity

“the gold” - His deity

Jos 5:13 ¶ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

Jos 5:14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

Jos 5:15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

“stood a man” - His humanity

“captain of the host of the LORD” - His deity

Note: No man or angel ever accepts worship, only God. This is emphasized by the “place whereon thou standest is holy.”

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

“virgin shall conceive” - His humanity

“Immanuel” - His deity

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

“a child is born” - His humanity

“a Son is given” - His deity, the mighty God

Jer 23:5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

Jer 23:6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

“the Branch” - His humanity

“THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS” - His deity

Zec 6:12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

Zec 6:13 Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

“the man” - His humanity

“glory...rule...throne” - His deity

These are just a few of the Old Testament Scriptures which present both the deity and the humanity of the Lord. The previous chapter dealt with the Biblical truth of the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, this chapter - His humanity.

Without question the Scriptures present Him born as man:

Mt 1:16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Mt 2:1 ¶ Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Mt 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Luk 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Luk 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Luk 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Joh 1:14 And the Word was made 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.

Ac 2:30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

Ac 2:31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Ro 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

Ro 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Rom 9:5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

In fact, it is the spirit of antichrist that denies His birth:

1Jo 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

1Jo 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

2Jo 1:7 ¶ For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Even Christ Himself points out that He was born:

Joh 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

The Biblical truth of both His deity and His humanity is clearly stated in Philippians:

Phil 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Phil 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Here the Word declares that He has the total essence and quality of God and yet took on Himself the total essence and quality of a servant and a man.

If Jesus Christ, God of very God, is not also man of very man:

1. He lied. It is as simple as that.
2. The Scriptures can not be taken at face value. Thus all other scriptural revelations are also suspect.
3. We have no Redeemer. This is the theological problem.

Those who deny His humanity, or His deity, either fail to understand the Biblical doctrine of redemption or are unwilling to accept it.

We were made sinners by the disobedience of Adam and are totally depraved. That is, we have no power to remedy our condition. The following are a few passages of Scripture which teach man's total depravity:

The un-regenerate man cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and [of] the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

The un-regenerate man cannot come to the Father.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

The un-regenerate man cannot hear the Word of God.

John 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? [even] because ye cannot hear my word.

John 8:47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear [them] not, because ye are not of God.

John 10:26-29 But ye believe not, **because ye are not of my sheep**, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

The un-regenerate man cannot receive the Spirit of truth.

John 14:17 [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

The un-regenerate man minds the things of the flesh.

Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

The un-regenerate man is God's enemy.

not Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

The un-regenerate man cannot be subject to the law of God.

not Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

The un-regenerate man cannot please God.

Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

The un-regenerate man cannot receive the things of the Spirit.

I Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

The un-regenerate man cannot cease from sin.

sin; II Peter 2:14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

The un-regenerate man is not righteous.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one

In fact, the un-regenerate man cannot believe.

John 10:26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

John 18:37 ... Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Since we were dead in sin and totally unable to remedy our condition, we had no hope in ourselves. However, God provided redemption for us in Christ. When the Lord declared in John 5:39 “ Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” , He made it clear that the Word was, above all else, the grand revelation of His person and His work.

The Holy Spirit has carefully designed the text in order to teach us wonderful truths concerning the Lord and His finished work, and that finished work includes the redemption of His own.

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit uses the word גֹּאֵל (gaw-al) translated both “kinsman” and “redeemer” to absolutely tie together God’s truth that the redeemer is, and must be, a kinsman. Every thing in the Word is designed to direct our attention to the Lord, and the truth of the kinsman redeemer is no exception. It was not primarily for the one in trouble in Israel but was a type of our Redeemer.

Remember, for the one in difficulty, the one who could not help himself, could not pay his debt there was a solution:

Le 25:25 If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.

Le 25:48 After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him:

Le 25:49 Either his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or any that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself.

If he was not able but had a kinsman who was willing and able to redeem he could be redeemed. The book of Ruth is a beautiful picture of the work of the kinsman redeemer.

Since:

2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

we know that the Holy Spirit did not give us the book of Ruth as an historical account of what happened to Ruth and Boaz, but that it might be profitable to us for doctrine, etc.

Ruth was a gentile, separate from God's chosen people. Naomi, a type of Israel driven out of the land, was led back to Bethlehem by the hand of God. Here she was unable to redeem herself or to provide for Ruth, a type of the body of Christ, the Church.

Boaz was a kinsman of Naomi's husband and because of his love for Ruth he was not only able, but willing to redeem that which was Naomi's, again a type of Israel returning to the land and given a new heart and mind. But he did much more for Ruth, not only was she a participant in the redemption, but he made her an intimate and inseparable part of himself by marriage. From Moab, the flesh, to one with Boaz, the new creation.

In the same way, we who were totally depraved, waxen not only poor but unable to help ourselves, must have a kinsman who is able and willing to redeem us if we are to be redeemed at all. And the price of that redemption is the death of the Lord Jesus Christ in our place.

Rom 5:6 ¶ For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Rom 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

In addition our redemption must result in a new man that is free from sin, is in intimate fellowship with, and cannot be separated from, our Redeemer. That is, the new man must be made the righteousness of God:

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

For if this is not completely done the new man, the redeemed man, would not only be able to sin but would sin again and it would be necessary for Christ to redeem us again by another death in our place over and over again. However, we know that is impossible:

Ro 6:10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once (and only once): but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

First of all then, our redeemer must be able to redeem us. Since we, unredeemed, are not only in difficulty but are both totally depraved and unrighteous:

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

our redeemer then must be righteous in order to pay the debt, and that, of course, is His deity, for only God is righteous:

Psa 116:5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.

Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Rom 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Rom 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Rom 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

2 Pet 1:1 ¶ Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Second He must be our kinsman, His humanity:

Heb 2:10 ¶ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Heb 2:11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

We are both from the same source since we were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world, He became our brother in the incarnation.

Heb 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

He is not ashamed to call us His brethren

Heb 2:13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

Heb 2:14 ¶ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

He became flesh and blood in order to be our kinsman redeemer

Heb 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Heb 2:16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

As Abraham's seed He became both man and our kinsman.

Heb 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

He was made like unto us, John 1:14 "And the Word was made 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."

And last of all, He must be willing to redeem us. He was willing because He loves us:

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Eph 2:4 ¶ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

1 John 3:1 ¶ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1 John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

because He chose us;

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Psa 105:43 And he brought forth his people with joy, and his chosen with gladness:

Mr 13:20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

1Pe 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

because He came to do the Father's will;

John 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

John 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Ps 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Heb 10:7 ¶ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

and because we are part of the joy that was set before Him:

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

If our Lord and our Redeemer is less than God of very God and man of very man He is not a Biblical redeemer and we are yet in our sins and stand condemned before God. But praise His name, He is God of very God and man of very man and as our kinsman redeemer loves us and died in our place so that we in the new creation, made the righteous of God in Him, stand before God without spot and without blemish.

Rom 8:1 ¶ There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Col 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

Col 1:22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

Col 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Perfected forever!!