



DISCIPLESHIP MATERIAL

Lesson Number: Eight

Theme: Jesus The Son of God (Pt. 2)

Date: November 2021

Introduction

We begin our second part of our series on Jesus the Son of God. We already established the importance of this study and the fact that it encapsulates quite a number of things we need to know about Jesus. For this part of the series we take a look again at Jesus and examine **His real humanity, His part in the hypostatic union, His baptism** and then **His temptation** all of which give clues on the personality of His being the Son of God.

A. His real humanity

The scriptural evidence that Jesus was a real man with real flesh and bones is quite extensive. **1John 1:1-3; 4:2-3** The following are selected examples which demonstrate the real humanity of Christ.

- He grew as a child. **Luke 2:40-52**
- He fell asleep. **Luke 8:23**
- He drank. **Luke 22:17**
- He wept. **John 11:35**
- He suffered, bled and died on the cross. **John 19:32-37**

So the humanity of Jesus Christ was as real and as important as His deity. (See **Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:14-16**)

How could Jesus be fully God and fully man at the same time – having a divine nature and a human nature? How did these two natures relate to each other? It is to that subject we now turn.

Question for Discussion

1. What are the implications if Jesus were not a real man?
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B. The hypostatic union

The coming together of the divine and human natures of Christ in one person is called the hypostatic union (which means to *cause to stand together*).

Some conclusions about the hypostatic union:

- Christ always acted as a whole person in response to one of His natures but His divine nature and will was predominant. **John 12:27-28**
- Jesus had a divine self-consciousness from childhood. **Luke 2:46-50**
- The divine will of Jesus dominated His human will but was always in submission to the Father. **John 6:38; Luke 22:41-46**
- It is not possible to fully distinguish between Jesus' divine and human nature on every occasion.
- Since God cannot die, it was the humanity of Christ that died on the cross.
 - As a man he experienced physical and spiritual death to redeem humanity. **1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18; Colossians 1:22**
 - Jesus as a person he was aware of His spiritual separation from the Father. **Psalms 22:1; Matthew 27:46**
 - Christ died with what was added to His deity – unglorified but unfallen humanity. The humanity of Christ was real – His flesh was like ours and yet different in one critical respect – he had no sin nature. **Romans 8:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Revelation 5:6**
 - Christ was resurrected in a glorified body. **1 Corinthians 15:35-54; Romans 6:4**

Question for Discussion

1. How could Jesus function as one person with 2 natures?

C. His baptism

Since Jesus did not need to be baptized what was its purpose? The key text is found in **Matthew 3:1-17** The baptism of Jesus

- identified him with John the Baptist’s preaching of the need for repentance – Jesus thus took a stand against the religious system of His day which denied the need for repentance or baptism.
- initiated His earthly ministry to fulfill God’s mission.
- authenticated His as God’s Son.
- previewed the Spirit baptism to come through Christ.

Question for Discussion

1. What message did Jesus communicate by His baptism?

D. His temptation

Since God cannot be tempted (that is, enticed to do evil – James 1:13) in what sense was Jesus “tempted” and what was the purpose?

As a man Jesus was “tempted” in the same ways as are other men:

- so He can sympathize with us and help us in our weakness. **Hebrews 2:18; Hebrews 4:15**
- so He could show us that temptation can be resisted by relying on the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Luke 4:1-13**

As God Jesus was “tested”

- by God to prove He was qualified as the sinless Saviour. **Hebrews 7:26-28**
- by Satan in an attempt to persuade Jesus to avoid the cross and accomplish God’s will in Satan’s way. **Luke 22:39-44**

For other key passages on temptation see **Genesis 3:1-7; James 1:12-16; 1 Corinthians 10:11-13; 1 John 2:15-17**

But since Jesus was God, were the temptations real? The answer is **yes**, because they were designed to show the sinlessness of Christ and to qualify Him as Saviour. And, as man, Jesus was able to resist temptation by relying on the

- power of the Holy Spirit
- truth of the Word of God

But another question remains. Was Jesus

- **impeccable** – “not able to sin” because He was God? *or*
- **peccable** – “able to sin” because as a man He relied on God fully?

The theological issue above has been debated for centuries and a good case can be made for both positions.

Perhaps a good solution is to say that *Jesus was peccable as to His human nature but impeccable as to His divine nature* so that as a person He was controlled by His deity.

What is quite clear is that Christ did not sin and thus met God's standard to be redeemer.

Question for Discussion

1. Why was it important for Jesus to be tempted and not sin?
