

DOCTRINE MATTERS: ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Message 14: The Person of Christ

Matthew 16:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ He said to them, "But **who do you say that I am?**"

Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man in one person,
and will be so forever.

John 1:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pt 1: The HUMANITY of Christ

Virgin Birth

Jesus was conceived in the womb of his mother, Mary, by a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit and without a human father.

Matthew 1:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:20 (ESV)

²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:24-25 (ESV)

²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Luke 1:34-35 (ESV)

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

Why this doctrine is **critical**:

Shows that _____ must ultimately come from the Lord. It is supernatural.

Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV)

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Makes possible the uniting of full _____ and full _____ in one person.

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Descend from heaven ...?

Two human parents ...?

Makes possible Christ's true humanity without _____

1 John 3:5 (ESV)

⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

Hebrews 7:26 (ESV)

²⁶ For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

Why did Jesus not inherit a sin nature from Mary?

Luke 1:35 (ESV)

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

Human Limitations

Jesus had a human _____.

Luke 2:7 (ESV)

⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:40 (ESV)

⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Jesus grew *tired* – John 4:6

Jesus became *thirsty* – John 19:28

He was *hungry* – Matt 4:2

Got *weak* – Matt 4:11

Died – Luke 23:46

NOTE: Jesus' resurrection was also *bodily*. He rose from the dead in a physical, human body, though one that was made perfect and was no longer subject to weakness, disease, or death.

Luke 24:39 (ESV)

³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

In the same *physical* body, Jesus also ascended into heaven. Jesus exists eternally in that perfected body in heaven. As such, he is the 'prototype' of the resurrection, demonstrating what our new bodies will be like as well.

Jesus had a human _____.

Luke 2:52 (ESV)

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Hebrews 5:8 (ESV)

⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

Jesus had a human _____ and human _____.

John 12:27 (ESV)

²⁷ "Now is my soul troubled ..."

John 13:21 (ESV)

²¹ After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit ...

Matthew 26:38 (ESV)

³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."

Jesus *marveled* at the faith of the centurion – Matt 8:10

Jesus *wept* at the death of Lazarus – John 11:35

He prayed with great *emotion* (loud cries and tears) – Heb 5:7

Sinlessness

Though Jesus was fully human, just as we are, he was without sin, and he never committed sin in his lifetime.

Job 37:6-13 (ESV)

⁶ For to the snow he says, 'Fall on the earth,' likewise to the downpour, his mighty downpour. ⁷ He seals up the hand of every man, that all men whom he made may know it. ⁸ Then the beasts go into their lairs, and remain in their dens. ⁹ From its chamber comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds. ¹⁰ By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen fast. ¹¹ He loads the thick cloud with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning. ¹² They turn around and around by his guidance, to accomplish all that he commands them on the face of the habitable world. ¹³ Whether for correction or for his land or for love, **he causes it to happen.**

John 8:29 (ESV)

²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.

John 15:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

1 Peter 1:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ ... but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

1 John 3:5 (ESV)

⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

Could Jesus have sinned? (Not, "Is it possible that He did?" We know he didn't. Is it possible that was *able to*?)

What Scripture *affirms* v. human *speculation* ...

Why I believe in Christ's *impeccability*:

- 1) The DEITY of Christ.
- 2) The DECREES of God.
- 3) The DIVINE ATTRIBUTES of Jesus.

Why is Jesus' **full humanity** necessary?

1 John 4:2-3 (ESV)

² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

1) Representative OBEDIENCE

Romans 5:18-19 (ESV)

¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

2) Substitutionary SACRIFICE

Hebrews 2:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

3) Role as High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV)

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

4) Our Pattern/Example

1 John 2:6 (ESV)

⁶ ... whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1 Peter 2:21 (ESV)

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

Pt 2: The DEITY of Christ

Direct scriptural claims

The word "God" is used of Christ.

- John 1:1
- John 1:18
- John 20:28
- Romans 9:5
- Titus 2:13
- Hebrews 1:8
- 2 Peter 1:1
- Isaiah 9:6

The word "Lord" is used of Christ.

- Luke 2:11
- Matt. 3:3
- Matt. 22:44
- 1 Cor. 8:6
- 1 Cor. 12:3

Other references:

John 8:57-58 (ESV)

⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?"

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I am.**"

Revelation 22:13 (ESV)

¹³ I am **the Alpha and the Omega**, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Matthew 26:64 (ESV)

⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see **the Son of Man** seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Daniel 7:13-14 (ESV)

¹³ "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a **son of man**, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Matthew 26:65 (ESV)

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "**He has uttered blasphemy**. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.

Multiple references to Jesus as "**Son of God**" ...

In John's gospel where Jesus is seen as a unique Son from the Father (John 1:14, 18, 34, 49) who fully reveals the Father (John 8:19; 14:9). As Son, he is so great that we can trust in him for eternal life (something that could be said of no created being: John 3:16, 36; 20:31). He is also the one who has all authority from the Father to give life, pronounce eternal judgment, and rule over all (John 3:36; 5:20-22, 25; 10:17; 16:15). As Son, he has been sent by the Father, and therefore he existed before he came into the world (John 3:37; 5:23; 10:36).

Jesus' Attributes

There are many examples in Jesus' life that point to His divine character.

Omnipotence:

- Stilled a storm with a word (Matt. 8:26-27)
- Multiplied loaves and fish (Matt 14:19)
- Changed water to wine (John 2:1-11)

Eternality:

- Before Abraham was, I Am – John 8:58
- Alpha and Omega – Rev. 22:13

Omniscience:

- Knew people's thoughts – Mark 2:8
- Knowing who did not believe – John 6:64
- Knowing who would betray him – John 6:64
- Knowing the hearts of all people – John 2:25, 16:30

Omnipresence (future):

- I am with you always – Matt 28:20

Sovereignty:

- To forgive sins – Mark 2:5-7
- Spoke as God. With authority ... "I say to you ..." – Matt. 5:22,28,32,34,39,44

Worthy of Worship: Rev 19:10, Phil. 2:9-11, Heb 1:6

Did Jesus give up some of his divine attributes on earth? ("Kenosis* Theory")

Philippians 2:5-7 (ESV)

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but **emptied himself**, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Why was Jesus' **Deity** necessary?

- 1) Only INFINITE GOD could bear the full penalty for sin for all who believe in Him.
- 2) SALVATION is from the Lord. No human being could ever save man – only God Himself.
- 3) Only someone who is truly and fully God could be the MEDIATOR between God and man.

Therefore ...

Following the holy fathers we confess one and the same our Lord Jesus Christ, and all teach as one that the same is perfect in Godhead, the same perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man; the same of a reasonable soul and body; consubstantial with the Father in Godhead and the same consubstantial with us in manhood; like us in all things except sin; begotten before the ages of the Father in Godhead; the same one in these last days, and for our salvation, born of Mary the Virgin Theotokos in the manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, unique; recognized in two natures, unconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the difference of natures being by no means taken away because of the union, but rather the distinctive character of each nature being preserved, combining in one person and hypostasis; not divided or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son and Only Begotten God, Word, Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets of old, and the Lord Jesus Christ himself, have taught us in his regard, and as the creed of the fathers has handed down to us.

- **The Chalcedonian Creed**, 451

NEXT WEEK:
Resurrection and Ascension