

Who Is Jesus

Session 3: The Humanity of Jesus

- How does the Bible teach that Jesus is human?
- What does the Bible teach about the humanity of Jesus?
- Why is it important for Jesus to be human?

The Bible teaches about the humanity of Jesus much in the same way that it teaches about the deity of Jesus – through stories and letters in the New Testament. While the Old Testament has prophecies about Jesus, the new Testament is where we will focus in looking at the humanity of Jesus.

False teachings about Jesus in the first and second centuries

In our world dominated by scientific naturalism, people generally accept the humanity of Jesus but not the deity of Jesus. Ever since the 19th century, some Christian groups and NT scholars have sought to separate the “Jesus of history” and the “Christ of faith.” The most recent well known effort was the “Jesus Seminars” that began in 1985.

In the first and second centuries, the false teachers accepted the deity of Jesus but not His full humanity. There were many variations on these teachings, but they can be generally grouped as:

- Docetism – Jesus only appeared to be human.
- Adoptionism – Jesus was a man who was adopted by the Son of God as a human host.

A major influence for these false views was some form of Gnosticism. Gnosticism is a term that covers a wide range of beliefs. A belief common to most forms of Gnosticism is “dualism.” Gnostic dualism believed that the spiritual is good and the material is evil. Gnostic false teachers were attracted to Christianity but could not accept that the spiritual, and therefore good, Son of God could truly become material.

This view was rejected by the early church and parts of the New Testament were written to refute some of the early influences of Gnostic-like beliefs affecting the church. 1 John, for example, is written in part to correct the teachings of proto-Gnostics (also called incipient Gnostics).

Although false teachings have done and continue to do much damage, they also create opportunities for Christians to develop and refine what they believe and how to talk about it.

What does it mean to be human?

If we went through Christian theology in the traditional way, we would have addressed these two questions:

- What does it mean to be God? – Theology Proper
- What does it mean to be human? – Anthropology

Here are questions theological anthropology considers:

- What attributes or characteristics are essential to being human?
- What does it mean to be made in the image of God?
- How did the Fall affect human nature?
- How does salvation affect human nature?

We want to know how to answer these questions from the Bible and not through observation or study of human behavior.

What are some general things we can say regarding what it means to be human?

How does understanding that Jesus became fully human help us understand what it means to be human?

What does the Bible teach about the humanity of Jesus?

This is a survey of what the New Testament teaches about the humanity of Jesus. The intent is to point you in the right direction for further study. The fundamental question is: Does the Bible present Jesus as being fully human?

- How Jesus enters the world
- Genealogies
- How Jesus was protected
- How Jesus matured
- What Jesus experienced
- How Jesus communicated
- How Jesus traveled
- How Jesus ministered
- How did others perceive Jesus

MATTHEW

Matthew 1:23-25 (Isaiah 7:14)

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Matthew 4:1

Matthew 4:2, 21:18

Matthew 4:11

Matthew 4:19-22

Matthew 4:23

Matthew 8:23

Matthew 9:8

Matthew 9:10-11

Matthew 9:27

Matthew 9:36-37

Matthew 11:1

Matthew 12:1
Matthew 13:53-56
Matthew 16:13
Matthew 16:22, 26:51, 56
Matthew 20:34
Matthew 26:38
Matthew 27:46
Matthew 27:50, 58-60

MARK

Mark 1:12-13
Mark 1:16-20
Mark 1:31, 41
Mark 2:13
Mark 2:16
Mark 3:5
Mark 3:21
Mark 4:38
Mark 5:30
Mark 6:5-6
Mark 6:1-3
Mark 8:11
Mark 8:32
Mark 11:12
Mark 12:12
Mark 14:34
Mark 15:34
Mark 16:6

LUKE

Luke 1:2, 1:30-35, 43-44	
Luke 2:6-7, 12, 16	
Luke 2:39, 51-52	grew
Luke 2:40	
Luke 4:1	tempted
Luke 4:2	hungry
Luke 4:40, 5:13, 13:11	touched
Luke 5:16, 6:12, 9:18	prayed
Luke 5:27	called
Luke 5:29-30, 14:1, 15:2	ate and drank
Luke 6:1	walked
Luke 8:22	traveled by boat
Luke 8:23	slept
Luke 8:45	did not know who touched Him

Luke 9:1-2, 9:52, 10:1	sent disciples out to do work
Luke 9:22	suffered and died
Luke 22:42	prayed in agony
Luke 23:44, 52-53, 24:1	died
Luke 24:41-43	ate after resurrection

JOHN

John 1:11	Came to his own.
John 1:14	Word became flesh
John 1:36, 10:22	Walked
John 1:43	Called His disciples
John 2:15	Made a whip to clear out temple
John 4:1	"learned"
John 4:6	Got tired
John 7:1	Did not go to Judea because the Jews wanted to kill him.
John 8:59, 11:54	Hid
John 9:6	Spat
John 11:35, 38	Wept
John 13:3	Knew who He is in relation to the Father
John 19:28	Thirsted
John 19:30, 33-34, 38-41	Died
John 20:17	Had material form after resurrection

Galatians 4:4, Philippians 2:6-7 Born

Hebrews 5:8-9

1 John 1:1-3

Why is it Important for Jesus to be fully human?

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." -Apostle Paul 2 Corinthians 5:21. See 2 Cor. 5:17-21

"¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God." Hebrews 9:13-14

"... without the shedding of blood there is not forgiveness of sin." Hebrews 9:22

"And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Hebrews 10:10

"He became man so that we might become God." -Athanasius

"What has not been assumed has not been healed." -Gregory of Nazianzen