

Core Seminar: Systematic Theology
The Person of the Messiah - Humanity

The Work of the Messiah (pt 1)

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THE PERSON OF THE MESSIAH - HUMANITY

“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.” John 1:14

I. Introduction and Review

(John 1, Col. 1, Phil. 2, Heb. 1)

II. The Humanity of Christ in Scripture

- **1 John 4:2-3** This is how you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Messiah has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming; even now it is already in the world.

A. Virgin Birth.

(Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35, 3:23)

- **Isaiah 7:14** “Therefore, Yahweh himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.”
- **Matthew 1:18** “The birth of Jesus Messiah came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit.”
- **Luke 1:35** “The angel replied to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

1. The virgin birth made possible the uniting of full deity and full humanity in one person.

2. The virgin birth made possible Christ’s true humanity without inherited sin.

B. Jesus Endured Human Weaknesses and Limitations

- **Jesus Had a Human Body**
(Luke 2:7, 40, 52; 23:46, 24:42; Matt. 4:2, 11; John 4:6, 19:28; 21:9, 13)
- **Jesus Had A Human Mind**
(Luke 2:52; Heb. 5:8; Mark 13:32)
- **Jesus Had a Human Soul and Human Emotions**
(John 12:21, 27; 11:35; Heb. 5:7; Matt. 8:10)
- **Jesus Was Understood by others to be a Human Being**
(Matthew 13:53-58)

Matthew 13:53–58 “When Jesus had finished these parables, he left there. 54 He went to his hometown and began to teach them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? 55 **Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother called Mary, and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? 56 And his sisters, aren’t they all with us? So**

where does he get all these things?” 57 And they were offended by him.

Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his household.”

58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.”

C. Jesus was Fully Human and Also Sinless

(2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15-16; 1 Peter 1:19; Acts 2:27; 3:14; 4:30; 7:52; 13:35)

- **2 Corinthians 5:21** He made **the one who did not know sin** to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- **Hebrews 4:14–16** Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, **yet without sin**. 16 Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.

APPLICATION: Worship Jesus Messiah as the God-Man

- **Athanasius (AD 373):** “Such and so many are the Saviour’s achievements that follow from His Incarnation, that to try to number them is like gazing at the open sea and trying to count

the waves. For, indeed everything about it is marvelous, and wherever a man turns his gaze he sees the Godhead of the Word and is smitten with awe.”*

Why Was Jesus’ Full Humanity Necessary? So that we might:

- Worship Jesus Messiah, the Second Adam (Rom. 5:18-19; 1 Cor. 15:45)
- Worship Jesus Messiah, our Substitutionary Sacrifice (Heb. 2:14-17)
- Worship Jesus Messiah, the Mediator between God and Men (1 Tim. 2:5)
- Worship Jesus Messiah, our Perfect Example (Phil 2:5-11; 1 Pet 2:21; Heb. 12:2)
- Worship Jesus Messiah, our Sympathetic High Priest (Heb. 2:18; 4:15-16)
- Worship Jesus Messiah, the firstborn from the dead (Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 15:49)
- Worship Jesus Messiah, the God-Man forever (Luke 24:39ff; Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:13-17)
- **Wayne Grudem:** “The Incarnation is by far the most amazing miracle of the entire Bible—far more amazing than the resurrection and more amazing even than the creation of the universe. The fact that the infinite, omnipotent, eternal Son of God could become man and join himself to a human nature forever, so that infinite God

* Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* 8. 54. (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 373/1993), 93.

became one person with finite man, will remain for eternity the most profound miracle and the most profound mystery in all the universe.”[†]

THE WORK OF CHRIST (PART I)

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” 1 Timothy 1:15

I. Introduction and Review

II. Overview of the Work of Christ

■ Christ’s Three Offices

- Prophet (Heb 1:1-2)
- Priest (Heb 7:26-27)
- King (Rev 19:11, 16)

■ The States of Humiliation and Exaltation (Phil 2:6-11):

III. The State of Humiliation (Phil 2:6-8)

A. The Incarnation of Christ: “...being born in the likeness of men...”

- Heb 2:14-17

[†] Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004), 563.

B. The Sinless Life / Active Obedience of Christ "...He humbled himself by becoming obedient..."

- Matt 5:17, 3:15ff; Heb 4:15-16

C. The Death of Christ "...to the point of death, even death on a cross."

1. Christ is our Penal Substitutionary Atoning Sacrifice

- The **Necessity** of Atonement (John 3:36, Eph 2:3, Heb 9:22, Rom 6:23)
- The **Nature** of the Atonement
 - **Penal** (Isa 53:5, 1 Pet 2:24)
Jesus Christ paid the penalty of our sins...
 - **Substitutionary** (John 1:29, Isa 53:12, 2 Cor 5:21)
...by dying in our place on the cross...
- The **Results** of the Atonement
 - **Propitiation** (Gal 3:13, Rom 3:23-25, 1 John 4:10)
...fully absorbing God's holy wrath...

- **Expiation** (John 1:29, Col 2:14)
...fully covering the guilt of our sin...

- **Purification / Positional Sanctification** (1 Cor 6:11, 1 John 1:7, Heb 9:14)
... and fully cleansing us from the sin that separated us from God.

2. Christ is our Legal Substitute (Justification)

(Isa. 53:11; Rom. 3:24–26)

3. Christ is our Redeemer

(Mark 10:45; 1 Pet 1:18-19; 1 Cor 6:20, Col 1:13-14)

4. Christ is our Reconciler

(Luke 15, Rom. 5:1, 10; Gal 4:4-6, Eph 2:14)

5. Christ is our Victor

(John 12:31, Col 2:15, 1 Cor 15:56-57)