

“Who Is This Man?”
“Know What You Believe” — Part 8
Colossians 2:9

**“Remaining what He was,
He became what He was not.”**

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel’s promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

1. Who is Jesus Christ?

...these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:11-13

Jesus Christ has always been a controversial person!

2. Jesus is God in the flesh.

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "Before Abraham was born, I am!" At this, they picked up stones to stone him...

John 8:58-59

• Jesus is fully God.

Who, being in very nature God...

Philippians 2:6

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form...

Colossians 2:9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-3 and 14

For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

John 5:18

Implications:

- If Jesus is not divine, how can He be the exact representation of God's being?

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word...

Hebrews 1:1-3

- If Jesus is not divine, how can he say, if you have seen me you have seen God?

...Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father...

John 14:9

- If Jesus is not divine, how can He be the one who determines who enters God's kingdom?

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven..."

Matthew 7:21

- If Jesus is not divine, how can He offer salvation?

...And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me.

Isaiah 45:21

- If Jesus is divine, He deserves our worship.

In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Revelation 5:12

- **Jesus is fully human.**

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God...

1 John 4:1-3

Implications:

- Jesus' humanity is essential to the Gospel.
- Full humanity is necessary to be a substitute sacrifice.

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil...For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:14 and 17

- Full humanity was necessary so that Jesus could be the one mediator between God and man.

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...
1 Timothy 2:5

- Full humanity was necessary to fulfill God's original purpose for man.

The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"
Matthew 8:27

- Full humanity was necessary so that He might be our example.

Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.
1 John 2:6

2. Was Jesus God at His birth?

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."
Luke 1:35 NASU

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

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.
Galatians 4:4-5

- The virgin birth points to Jesus' identity as the divine Son of God.

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." Matthew 1:23

Conclusion: Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man in one person, and will be so forever. How can a clear understanding of Jesus' humanity help you face temptations?

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
Hebrews 4:15-16