

The Humanity of Christ

Part 3

Introduction.

1. In lesson 1 we studied the fact Jesus was and is an eternal Spirit just as the Father and the Holy Spirit are eternal Spirits.
2. When the fulness of time came Jesus became flesh and died in the flesh for our sins.
- 3 In lesson 2 we continued the study of “The Humanity of Christ” after His resurrection and later at His ascension.
- 4 We studied that Jesus was raised with His physical body and was in the same resurrected body at His ascension into heaven.
5. In part 3 of this series we will study some additional information about Jesus now.

Jesus Now

1. He is now Deity in a spiritual body and seated at the right hand of His Father who is Spirit. (Acts 2:33; Jn. 4:24).

Acts 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

2. Heaven is not a physical place though things familiar to humans are used to describe it - streets, wall, gold, pearls, thrones, rest, service, etc.

3. Jesus is **now** called a life-giving Spirit. (1 Cor. 15:45).

1 Cor 15:45 So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam [Jesus] {became} a life-giving spirit.

- “Became” is in italics because the Greek does not have a verb.
- Since Jesus is the giver of both physical and spiritual life, it would be better to supply the verb “is.”
 - a. “Spirit” is not capitalized, but it should be for clarification that Jesus is Deity.
 - b. It refers to Jesus as “a life-giving Spirit.”
 - 1) Jesus is not merely a spirit such as the created angels who are called “spirits” (Heb. 1:13, 14), but He is Deity.

2) Jesus was the Creator of all things including life. (Jn. 1:1-3).

2) He created all life. (Jn. 1:1-3).

- The Old Testament teaches God created all life.
- The New Testament teaches God created everything through His Son. (1 Cor. 8:6; Heb 1:2; Col. 1:15-18).

1 Cor 8:6 yet for us there is {but} one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we {exist} for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we {exist} through Him.

Heb 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created, {both} in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Col 1:17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Col 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

3) Jesus was the Creator of all physical life, and He gives spiritual life to those who trust in Him.

4) He will raise all the dead at His coming. (Jn. 5:28,29; 11:25; 6:39).

John 5:28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, John 5:29 and will come forth; those who did the good {deeds} to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil {deeds} to a resurrection of judgment.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,

John 6:39 "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

4. Jesus is now our King and our Mediator. (Acts 2:32-36; 1 Tim. 2:5).

Acts 2:32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

Acts 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

Acts 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

Acts 2:35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God, {and} one mediator also between God and men, {the} man Christ Jesus,

a. Jesus now has all authority. (Matt. 28:18). See Jn. 17:2

b. He is now our one and only Mediator with God. (1 Tim. 2:5).

c. When we sin and seek forgiveness, Jesus obtains forgiveness for us as our Mediator and High Priest.

d. God does not forgive us because we deserve it, but because His precious Son obtains it for us.

5. Jesus is now **our High Priest**.

Heb 2:17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Heb 2:18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as {we are, yet} without sin

a. Jesus is very active as our “merciful and faithful high priest.” (Heb. 7:25-28).

Heb 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Heb 7:26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;

Heb 7:27 who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the {sins} of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

Heb 7:28 For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, {appoints} a Son, made perfect forever.

b. Since He had the human experience, He knows exactly what it is like to be a human.

c. He was strongly tempted by Satan and Satan worked perhaps even harder on Him during His incarnation than he does us.

d. **If he could lead Jesus into sin, no one could be saved.**

e. We are all sinners and would be hopelessly lost. (Rom. 3:10, 23).

f. Jesus was completely victorious over Satan and sin (Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22), He knows how to resist and overcome him.

g. Jesus can help us in our battle against Satan and come “to the aid of those who are tempted.” (Heb. 2:18).

h. Because He came to be “the propitiation” [the atoning sacrifice] for those who trust and obey Him, He still intercedes for His followers and secures their forgiveness.

i. It is not necessary for Him to die over and over again to obtain forgiveness for His followers, but His sacrifice on the cross was all sufficient [once for all]. (Heb. 9:28; 10:10).

Christ At His Coming

1. All physical things will be destroyed at Jesus’ coming. (2 Pet. 3:10-13)

2 Pet 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

2 Pet 3:11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy

conduct and godliness,

2 Pet 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

2 Pet 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

- a. Christ will come without warning “like a thief.”
- b. At His coming the physical heavens and earth “will be burned up.” ASV, NASB, KJV, NKJV. The ESV has “it will be exposed.” NIV “will be laid bare.”
 - 1) Many ancient manuscripts have “**kaio**” meaning to “burn up.”
 - 2) Some manuscripts have “**heurisko**” to “to find, to discover.”
 - 3) This rendering makes no sense in context.
 - 4) The context strongly implies “to be burned up.” See 2 Pet. 3:12
- c. There will be “new heavens and a new earth.”
 - 1) The current heavens and earth are man’s dwelling place, and they will pass away. (Matt. 24:35).
 - 2) The “new heavens and earth” are speaking of the new dwelling place of the righteous - heaven itself.
 - 3) The Bible is clear heaven is the eternal dwelling place of the righteous. (Matt. 5:8,10-12; 6:19-21; Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Pet. 1:4; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Heb. 11:15-16).

Matt 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matt 5:10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 5:11 "Blessed are you when {people} insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

Matt 5:12 "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matt 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

Matt 6:20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

Matt 6:21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

John 14:1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, {there} you may be also.

1 Pet 1:4 to {obtain} an inheritance {which is} imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

1 Thess 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

1 Thess 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

1 Thess 4:15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thess 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of {the} archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thess 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thess 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Heb 11:15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that {country} from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.

Heb 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better {country,} that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

2. When Jesus comes He will raise our physical bodies (Jn. 5:28-29; 1 Cor 15:22-23), but they will not remain physical.

a. God's people will be instantly changed into spiritual bodies. (1 Cor. 15:49-53).

1 Cor 15:49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

1 Cor 15:50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

1 Cor 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

1 Cor 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Cor 15:53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

b. The saved will ascend to be with Jesus in heaven "always, forevermore." (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

1 Thess 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

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c. The saved will have a spiritual body like the spiritual body of Jesus. (Phil. 3:20-21).

Phil 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Phil 3:21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity **with the body of His glory**, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

1) Jesus now has a spiritual body of "glory."

2) We too will be given a spiritual body that conforms to “the body of His glory.”

3) This does not mean we will be exactly like Christ who is Deity and the King of kings and Lord of lords.

4) We will be His “servants” in heaven (Rev. 22:3) and will enjoy “rest” and freedom from pain, disease and death. (Rev. 14:13; 22:3).

5) It does mean we will have a new spiritual body and the physical body [man] will be no more.

d. Paul clearly taught what is planted is not like what comes forth. (1 Cor. 15:36-38).

1 Cor 15:36 You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies;

1 Cor 15:37 and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else.

1 Cor 15:38 But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

e. He emphasized the natural body will come forth a spiritual body. (1 Cor. 15:42-44).

1 Cor 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable {body,} it is raised an imperishable {body,}

1 Cor 15:43 it is sown in dishonor [in a state of decay], it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

1 Cor 15:44 it is sown a natural [physical] body, **it is raised a spiritual body**. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual {body.}

Conclusion.

1. In lesson 4 we will conclude this series of lessons on “The Humanity of Jesus” by making a “Special Study About The Physical Body Of Jesus.”
2. We will seek to clarify from the Bible if Jesus is now Deity in heaven without a physical body or if He now has a physical and spiritual body and is fully God and fully man.

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