

The Humanity of Christ

No. 107

Introduction.

- I. A famous preacher once said, “I have heard of ministers who can preach a sermon without mentioning the name of Jesus from beginning to end.” Beloved, I also have heard of such, but I am not one of those preachers. The older I get and the longer I preach the more I feel compelled to preach sermons that are saturated with Jesus and His words.
- II. Today I would like to discuss with you, “The Humanity of Christ.”
 - A. This is a subject of utmost importance. Every Christian should have a clear and comprehensive understanding of what the Bible teaches on this subject. (2 Jn. 7).
 - B. There are five facts I would like to emphasize about Christ’s humanity.
- I. **Christ Existed Before He Became A Man** - The first fact is Christ existed before He became a man. There are many people in the world today who are under the impression Jesus did not exist before He was born of the virgin Mary.
 - A. This conception of Christ is not supported by Christ or the writers of the New Testament.
 1. During Christ’s ministry He affirmed He was an Eternal Being. (Jn. 6:38, 51; 8:58; 17:5).
 2. The writers of the New Testament also affirm Christ is an Eternal Being. (Jn. 1:1-3; 1 Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:2).
 - a. These verses affirm that God created all things through His Son Jesus Christ. Since Christ created all things that have been brought into existence, it means Christ must be eternal.
 - b. Micah (Mic. 5:2f).
 - c. The apostle John removes all question concerning the eternity of Christ in his first epistle. (1 Jn. 1:2). John declares here in the clearest possible way that Jesus is eternal. He is without beginning or end of days.
 - B. Some have challenged this conclusion with **Revelation 3:14** that states Christ is “the beginning of the creation of God.”
 1. The contend from this verse that Jesus was the beginning of God’s creation and therefore is not eternal. This interpretation is not valid. We have already seen that other scriptures clearly teach the eternity of Christ.
 2. The word translated “beginning” can mean “the cause” of something. Jesus was “the cause of the creation of God.” He created all things. This interpretation is in full harmony with the rest of the Bible.
- II. **Christ Was Deity Before He Became A Man** - The second fact I would like to stress is Christ was Deity before He became a man.
 - A. Christ was more than merely Michael the archangel as many people have exclaimed. Charles Russell wrote the following about Christ:

“Our Redeemer existed as a spirit being before he was made flesh and dwelt amongst men. At that time,

as well as subsequently, he was properly known as ‘a god’ a mighty one. As chief of angels and next to the the Father he was know as Archangel (highest angel messenger), who name Michael, signifies, ‘Who is God’, or God’s representative. As he was the highest of all Jehovah’s creation, so also he was the first, the direct creation of God...” (Studies in the Scriptures, Series 5, p. 84).

- B. Russell and others, who have asserted that Christ was Michael, the archangel, have abused the scriptures.
 - 1. The scriptures do not teach the pre-existent Christ was an angel or even chief of the angels. They teach He was Deity. (Jn. 1:1). John states here that Jesus was “with God” in the beginning and He “was God.”
 - 2. Paul also affirms the Deity of Christ. (Phil. 2:6). He states that Christ existed in “the form of God” and was on “equality with God.”
 - 3. Jesus was Deity.

III. **Christ Became Flesh** - The third fact I would like to emphasize is Christ became flesh.

- A. There have been people through the ages who have denied Jesus was human. They have asserted Jesus was Deity while upon the earth.
- B. Those who have denied Christ’s humanity have overlooked 2 significant facts.
 - 1. In the first place, the inspired writers **affirm Jesus became flesh**. (Jn. 1:14; Rom. 1:3; Gal. 4:4; Phil. 2:5-8).

⁵Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; ⁸and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross

- 2. In the second place, those who have denied Christ’s humanity have overlooked the fact that **Jesus had experiences common to man**.
 - a. Jesus knew what it was like to be a child and grow into adulthood.. He knew what it was to experience hunger and thirst. He knew what it was like to be sleepy and exhausted. He knew what it was like to be tempted and suffer pain and death.
 - b. These experiences are indisputable evidence that Christ became flesh.

IV. **Jesus Did Not Lay Aside His Deity When He Became Flesh** - The next fact I would like to stress is Jesus did not lay aside His Deity when He became flesh.

- A. Yes, Jesus was a man while upon the earth, but He was far more than a mere man! He was Deity clothes with flesh. (Matt. 1:23; Jn. 14:9, Col. 1:15; 2:9; Heb. 1:3, 8).
- B. Someone might ask at this point in our lesson, “What proof do we have of His Deity? The proof of Christ’s Deity rests on the fact that he possessed the essential qualities of Deity while He was in the flesh. Christ was omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent.
 - 1. Jesus revealed His **omnipresence** when He said. (Matt. 18:20).

2. Christ manifested His **omniscience** with His ability to discern even the thoughts of man (Matt. 9:1-4).
3. Christ demonstrated His **omnipotence** with His power to perform miracles. (Matt. 9:27-31; Lk. 7:11-17). John tells us Christ performed miracles to prove His Deity. (Jn. 20:30, 31).

V. **Purpose Of Christ Becoming A Man** - The last fact I would like to emphasize is the purpose of Christ becoming a man.

- A. Jesus left heaven and became flesh that He might save mankind. (Lk. 19:10). After spending some 33 years in the flesh Jesus died on the cross for the sins of man. He suffered the punishment man deserved because of sins.
- B. Jesus became flesh that He might **become our sympathetic High Priest**. (Heb. 4:15).
 1. The Hebrew writer explains in this passage how the humanity of Christ served to make Him a sympathetic High Priest. Jesus was tempted as man just as you and I are in life. Satan came to Him numerous times and tried to induce Him to sin. Jesus was able, however, to overcome all of these temptations. Since Christ was able to overcome these temptations, He is able to succor us. He can aid us in overcoming the temptations we face every day.
 2. Once **a boy became involved in a scrap** with a boy who was much bigger than he was. Someone asked him, "Aren't you afraid?": He replied, "No, you see my older brother is just around the corner." I say to you, that in our battles with the temptations life, we do not need to be afraid. Jesus, our Big brother, is not around the corner, but He is right by our side helping us overcome the evil one.

Conclusion.

- I. As we can see from this lesson, the humanity of Christ is of great significance. If Jesus had not become a man, we would be without hope of eternal life. Now through Jesus we can have life eternal with God and have a happier, more abundant life in t his world.
- II. On one occasion Jesus met a wild man coming out of the tombs. This man was possessed with a demon. This demon gave him supernatural strength. They would bind him with chains, but he was always able to break them. He constantly cried out and cut himself with stones. Jesus healed him and cast the demon out of him.
 - A. Now he was a sane man and he could take his place in society. Jesus told him to return to his house and friends, and t ell them what great things the Lord had done for him. (Mk. 5:1-19).
 - B. **I can imagine him coming home that evening after he met Jesus.** His children looked out the window and cry out, "Mother, father is coming." She runs and locks the doors, saying, "Don't be afraid, children, the door is locked and he can't get in to harm you." The children are still looking out of the window. Soon they say, "Mother, that isn't like father. He always comes running wildly and crying out. This man is walking slowly and is very quiet." The mother whispers, "Keep still." Their hearts beat fast as they hear a hand placed on the latch. The door will not yield, so the man knocks gently. His wife does not answer the door. She remains quiet hoping that he will go away. Then he says, "Mary, open the door. I am all right. I met Jesus today, and I am a changed man." She fearfully opens the door, while the children shrink into a corner. Then he says, "Don't be afraid, children. I met Jesus today and I am different." They approach him timidly and he puts his arms around them and love them. He speaks kindly to his wife and with a pray of thanksgiving she prepares the supper. When they sit down at the table, he bows his head and asks the blessing. They talk until bedtime. Then he gathers the family around him and thanks God for the miracle that he has wrought. He kisses the children good night and they go to bed. Then he sit s by the fireside, holding his wife's hand. He says,

“Thank God, Mary, the old life is over. I met Jesus today and He changed me.”

- C. Jesus can and will do this for your life if you will submit your life to Him in faith and baptism. You can say, “Thank God the old life is over. I met Jesus today and He changed me.” Will you submit your life to Him as we stand and sing?