

THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

PASTOR FRED GRECO

HUMANITY OF CHRIST PART 2

Week 5

REVIEW: WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

1. Fully God
2. Fully Man
3. Only one Person (not two) and not a mixture (e.g. brass), it is a personal union (*Hypostatic*)

IMPORTANCE OF INCARNATION

- The Atonement stands on it
- Our Trust in the Bible relies on it
- It is a sign of attacks on the miraculous
- It exposes false doctrines and teachers

PURPOSE OF THE INCARNATION

- Salvation of sinners
- Manifest God to man
- Manifest man as he was created to be

SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE FOR HUMANITY OF CHRIST



THE VIRGIN BIRTH

- Few ingredients of the gospel are so ridiculed as the virgin birth
- Necessary because of pollution of human nature by Adam (cf. Romans 5)

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

- Behold, the **virgin** shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us). (Matthew 1:23; *cp.* Isaiah 7:14)
- And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a **virgin**?" (Luke 1:34)

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

- Not a denial of the Pre-incarnate Christ: Remember that the incarnation was anticipated before the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8; 1 Peter 1:20)
- Not to be confused with “immaculate conception”

WHAT IS HUMANITY?

- Humanity means that Jesus had a true body and a true soul
- He was not disguised in the form of man, but actually took on the nature of man



WHAT IS HUMANITY?

- He felt pleasure and pain, just as we do
- He knew sorrow and delight



JESUS WAS BORN

- But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, (Galatians 4:4)
- Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)
- And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (Luke 1:31)

JESUS WAS MAN & GOD

- For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)
- For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (1 Timothy 2:5)

MUST BE MAN

- Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, **he himself likewise partook of the same things**, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, (Hebrews 2:14)
- For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son **in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin**, he condemned sin in the flesh, (Romans 8:3)

THIS IS A MYSTERY

- Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: **He was manifested in the flesh**, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. (1 Tim. 3:16)

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

- Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the **likeness of men**. And being found **in human form**, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

“LIKENESS”

- Likeness here has a meaning of **identity**, not dissimilarity
 - Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not **like the transgression of Adam**, who was a type of the one who was to come. (Rom. 5:14)
 - For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him **in a resurrection like his**. (Rom. 6:5)

“IN HUMAN FORM”

- This denotes certainty, not skepticism
 - Greek word that means “as” (ὡς)
 - And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be (ὡς) a prophet. (Matthew 14:5)

SINLESS-NESS OF CHRIST



JUST SINLESS OR UNABLE TO SIN?

- There are three possibilities to describe the relationship of Christ to sin and sin nature
 - “unable not to sin” → **Fallen man**
 - “able not to sin” → **Redeemed man**
 - “not able to sin” → **Christ**

UNABLE NOT TO SIN

- This best describes the nature of fallen man
- It means fallen man cannot stop sinning
- Everything he does, no matter how noble or “good” is but “filthy rags” (*cf.* Isaiah 64:6) because fallen man’s heart is bent toward sin

AN IMPORTANT DISTINCTION

ABLE NOT TO SIN

- Redeemed men
- Able imperfectly to put sin to death
- A Christian still sins, but he is also able to please God by faith
(Hebrews 11:6)

NOT ABLE TO SIN

- Glorified men
- Beyond sin
- So preserved that it is impossible to sin

NOT ABLE TO SIN

This best describes the nature of Christ.

- Christ cannot ever sin
- It is not that He did not happen to sin in His life
- Because of who Jesus Christ is
- He is very God of very God

VERY MAN & VERY GOD

- This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)
- Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (James 1:17)

WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?

- If Christ could have sinned, and since He is “the same yesterday, today and forever,” it would then be possible that He could sin now at the right hand of God. That would mean that our salvation would be in jeopardy.



CHRIST THE MEDIATOR OF GOD'S COVENANT WITH MAN

NEXT WEEK

