

Jesus: God Incarnate

Fully God and Fully Man in One Person!

A. The HUMANITY of Jesus Christ

1. Jesus' humanity was a pre-fall humanity.
2. What is the composition of man being human?
 - a. Creation of man: "Then the Lord God formed man of the dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." (Gen 2:7)
 - b. Created in the image of God: "Then God said, Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness..." (Gen 1:26)

The main idea: To be made *similar to* and *to represent* God.

This includes intellectual ability, moral awareness, and an immaterial soul.

- c. A physical body and an immaterial soul/spirit.

"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul..." (Matt 10:28)

- d. Evidence for an immaterial conscious soul/spirit

Moses and Elijah on the mount of transfiguration (Matt 17:1-3ff)

Samuel the prophet appears from the dead to King Saul (1 Samuel 28:15-19)

The Rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)

God is a spirit, i.e. no physical substance, yet has a mind and consciousness. We are made in the likeness of God and this includes a non-material substance which contains continuous consciousness and rational being.

- e. How much do your thoughts weight in grams?

<u>Thoughts</u>	<u>Matter</u>
Conscious	Non-conscious
Information	Order but no information
Cannot be seen	Can be seen
Is and about something	Is something only
Weightless	Has weight
Does not occupy space	Occupies space
No extension	Extension
Intentionality	No Intentionality
New ones can exist	No new matter can come to exist

3. Jesus was born of a virgin. (Matt 1:18-25; Luke 1:30-35) Why is it important?

- a. Salvation was promised through the seed of a woman (Gen 3:15)
- b. The virgin birth made possible the uniting of full deity to true humanity.
- c. The virgin birth makes possible sinless humanity without inherited guilt or sin.

"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)

4. Jesus was sinless!

Was Jesus sinless because he obeyed the law or did he have the capacity and action of obeying the law because he was sinless? Jesus was sinless prior to any action or obedience and this sinless capacity resulted in him obeying the law and much more.

"Though the New Testament clearly affirms that Jesus was fully human as we are, it also affirms that Jesus was different in one important respect: he was without sin, and he never committed sin during his lifetime." (Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, 535)

Jesus knew no sin. (2 Cor 5:21)

Jesus always did what was pleasing to the Father. (John 8:29)

Jesus is called the Holy One or Righteous One. (Acts 2:27; 3:14; 4:30; 7:52; 13:35)

"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." (Hebrews 4:15)

"For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest -- holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens." (Hebrews 7:26)

Jesus, "who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth." (1 Peter 2:22)

Jesus, "...a lamb unblemished and spotless..." (1 Peter 1:19)

"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust..." (1 Peter 3:18)

"You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin."
(1 John 3:5)

5. Why is Jesus' full humanity necessary?

- a. In order to be a suitable substitute sacrifice. (Hebrews 2:14-17)
- b. In order to be a mediator between God and man. (1 Timothy 2:5)
- c. In order to fulfill God's original plan for man to rule over creation. (Heb 2:8)
- d. In order to sympathize as our high priest. (Heb 2:18; 4:15-16)
- e. In order to be a pattern for our redeemed bodies. (1 Cor 15:42-44)
- f. In order to be an example for our Christian life. (1 John 2:6; 1 Pet 2:21; Heb 12:3)

"All of these texts indicate that Jesus did not *temporarily* become man, but that his divine nature was *permanently* united to his human nature, and he lives forever not just as the eternal Son of God...but also as Jesus, the man who was born of Mary..." (Grudem, 543)

B. The DEITY of Jesus Christ

"For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form." (Col 2:9)

1. Direct claims to be GOD!

a. Claimed equality with the Father!

"My Father is working until now and I Myself am working. For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God his own Father, making Himself equal with God." (John 5:17-18)

"I and the Father are one." The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" The Jews answered, "For a good work we do not stone you but for blasphemy; and because you being a man, make yourself out to be God." (John 10:30-33)

b. Claimed to be the self-existent Yahweh!

"Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM." (John 8:58)

"God said to Moses, I AM who I AM and He said, thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, I AM has sent me to you." (Exodus 3:14)

I AM in John 8:58 is the Greek "ego eimi" and is the same phrase used in the Greek translation of Exodus 3:14. The same phrase is used in Mark 6:50 and Matt 14:27.

c. Claimed to be the Son of Man! (Used 84 times in the Gospels and only by Jesus)

Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One? And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see the **Son of Man** sitting at the right hand of power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." Tearing his cloths the high priest said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the *blasphemy*..." (Mark 14:61-64)

"I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like the **Son of Man** was coming, and he came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and his kingdom is one which will not be destroyed." (Daniel 7:13-14)

2. His actions reveal DEITY!

a. He forgives sins committed against God!

And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?" (Mark 2:5-7)

b. He accepts worship!

And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshipped Him. (Matt 28:9)

And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped Him. (John 9:38)

And when He again brings the first born into the world, He says, "Let all the angels of God worship Him." (Hebrews 1:6)

Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." (Matt 4:10)

c. He exhorts the Father to glorify Him!

"Now, Father, glorify Me together with yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world was." (John 17:4-5)

"I am the LORD, that is my name; I will not give my glory to another, nor my praise to a graven images." (Isaiah 42:8)

"And to Him was given dominion, **glory** and a kingdom..." (Daniel 7:14)

"And the elders fell down and worshipped." (Rev 5:14)

d. He exercised authority over all things!

* Authority over nature (Luke 8:22-25)

* Authority over demons (Luke 8:32-33)

* Authority over sickness (Luke 8:40-48)

* Authority over death (Luke 8:49-56)

* Authority over his own resurrection (John 10:17-18)

e. Performing miracles as a sign of the coming Kingdom

f. His use of the term "Abba" initiated a new relationship with God.

g. Direct divine utterance! "Truly, truly I say to you." (John 3:5; 4:18; 5:19; 6:32)

3. He has attributes possessed only by GOD!

"And He is the radiance of His glory and the **exact** representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power..." (Heb 1:3)

"I and the Father are one." (John 10:30)

a. Jesus demonstrated omnipotence.

- * Stilled the storm on the sea ((Matt 8:26-27)
- * Multiplied the bread and fish (Matt 14:19)
- * Changed water into wine (John 2:1-11)

b. Jesus is eternal and self-existing.

- * Before Abraham was, I AM. (John 8:59)
- * The alpha and the omega (Rev 22:13)

c. Jesus demonstrated omniscience.

- * He knew people's thoughts (Mark 2:8)
- * Knew who would not believe (John 6:64)
- * Knew all men and what was in them (John 2:25)
- * Knew all things (John 16:30)
- * Knew everything (John 21:17)

d. Jesus communicated the idea of his omnipresence.

- * I am with you always (Matt 28:20)
- * Where two are, there I am in their midst (Matt 18:20)

e. Jesus possessed divine sovereignty.

- * He said, Truly I say to you. (Matt 5:22, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44)
- * He alone will judge the living and the dead (John 5:22)
- * All authority and dominion is given to Him (Dan 7:13-14).

f. Jesus possessed the divine attribute of immortality (John 8:58, Heb 7:16)

4. Ascribing Deity to Him from Others!

a. Thomas: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28)

b. John: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

The predicate nominative construction.

It is used when you want to make sure the reader understands you are talking about the same thing in both references.

Two types of predicate nominative:

Convertible proposition:

Michael Jordan is the best basketball player.

The best basketball player is Michael Jordan.

Subset proposition: Jon is a man.

The Word is God

How do we tell the subject from the predicate? (Colwell's Rule): The subject will be the know entity. If this is not clear then the following will identify.

The subject will be a pronoun whether stated or contained in the verb.

The subject will be articular.

The subject will be a proper name.

"Again a subset proposition is envisioned here. The logos belongs to the larger category known as *theos*. The force of the proposition is most likely to emphasize the nature of the Word, not His identity. That is to say, the Word is true deity but he is not the same person as the *theos* mentioned earlier in the verse."

(Daniel Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*, 40-48)

- c. Paul: "Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus." (Titus 2:13)

The Grandville Sharp Rule: The TSKS construction

T = the definite article (i.e. "the")

S = substantive (i.e. a noun)

K = the Greek connective "kai" which is translated "and"

Three qualifications on the substantives:

Both have to be personal

Both have to be singular

Both have to be non-proper

If it is the TSKS construction then it demands, grammatically speaking, that both nouns refer to the same person. Thus God and Savior are referring to one person and that person, according to the text, is Christ Jesus.

There cannot be an article before the second noun for this rule to apply. This rule does not have an exception. This is true 100% of the time!

- d. Peter: "To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:1)

This also has the TSKS construction

5. Jesus has titles that are exact with God!

a. Savior

"For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." (Is 43:10)

"I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no Savior besides Me." (Is 43:11)

"...I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior...peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior." (Titus 1:3-4)

b. Creator

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable." (Is 40:28)

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)

"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 by Him and for Him." (Col 1:16)

"All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being." (John 1:3)

c. Lord

The Greek word "kyrios" meaning Lord is used to translate Yahweh (LORD in English bibles), found in the Old Testament, some 6,814 times in the Septuagint.

"For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

Elizabeth to Mary: "Why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:43).

John the Baptist: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight." ((Matt 3:3)
Isaiah: "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness, make smooth in the desert a highway for our God." (Is 40:3)

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

"Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you..." (Deut 10:12)

"The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand..." (Ps 110:1)

Jesus frequently referred to as Lord. (1 Cor 8:6; 12:3; 1 Tim 6:14)

d. Judge

"Shall not the judge of all the earth deal justly?" (Gen 18:25)

"For God himself is judge." (Ps 50:6)

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.." (2 Cor 5:10)

"...Christ Jesus who is to judge the living and the dead." (2 Tim 4:1)

e. Lord of Lords

"Give thanks to the Lord of Lords, for his lovingkindness is everlasting (Ps 136:3)

"For the LORD your God is...the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God..." (Deut 10:17)

"...and the Lamb will overcome them, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings..." (Rev 17:14)

"And on his robe he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords." (Rev 19:6)

f. First and Last

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and the last, and there is no God besides Me." (Is 44:6)

"I am the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Rev 22:13)

6. Unique statements about Jesus

- a. To honor Jesus is to honor God. (John 5:23; 1 John 2:22-23)
- b. To Know Jesus is to know God. (John 8:19)
- c. Believe in Jesus just as you believe in God. ((John 14:1)
- d. He who sees Jesus sees the Father (John 14:8-9)

7. His various relationships point towards His Deity.

- a. The Disciples: He formed the twelve but wasn't one of the twelve.

"If the twelve represent a renewed Israel, where does Jesus fit in? He's not just a part of Israel, not merely a part of the redeemed group, he's forming the group -- just as God in the Old Testament formed his people and set up the twelve tribes of Israel. That's a clue about what Jesus thought about himself." (Ben Witherington)

- b. Jesus being greater than John the Baptist but John is the greatest man on earth.

Jesus said, "Of all the people born of a woman, John is the greatest man on earth." (Matt 11:11)

John: And he was preaching and saying, "After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals." (Mark 1:7)

8. Why is His full Deity important?

- a. He must be fully God in order to fully pay the penalty of sin.

"My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (1 John 2:1)

- b. He must be fully God in order to be an eternal high priest. (Heb 7:23-28; 9:11-14)

"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 7:25)

- c. A finite being could never pay an infinite penalty. Jesus is infinite God and He could and did pay the penalty for sins in full.

"But he, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God...for by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified." (Heb 10:12,14)

"...having forgiven all our transgressions...having nailed it to the cross." (Col 2:13-14)

C. The Person and Nature and Will of Jesus Christ

1. Jesus has two natures: Human nature and a Divine Nature
2. Jesus has two wills driven by His two natures: Human will and Divine will.
3. Jesus' natures are distinct but united in one person.
4. Jesus is one unified person.
5. The Chalcedonian Definition (451 AD)

We, then, the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable soul and body; consubstantial with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God, the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the prophets from the beginning have declared concerning him, and the Lord Jesus Christ himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has been handed down to us.

6. Heretical Views of Jesus

- a. Apollinarianism: One person who had a human body and a divine nature
- b. Nestorianism: Two persons in one body. A human person and a divine person.
- c. Monophysitism: The divine and human natures were blended to form a new nature which was neither truly divine or truly human.
- d. Arianism: Jesus is a creation of God but not God. He is divine but not Deity.

7. Modern expressions of heresy

a. Jehovah Witnesses: Arianism

"Scriptural evidence indicates that the name Michael applied to God's Son before he left heaven to become Jesus Christ and also after his return."

(Aid to Bible Understanding, p.1152. This is a JW publication)

"Not at birth but at thirty-years of age Jesus became Christ or Anointed One."

(Things in which it is Impossible for God to Lie, 211. JW publication)

The New World "translation" of John 1:1 reads: "In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god."

Sample conversation with a JW on this verse:

Christian: How many true Gods are there?

JW: Only one! And his name is Jehovah.

Christian: Would you read John 1:1 from your "Bible?" (NWT)

JW: Sure, my pleasure.

Christian: So, is Jesus a true or a false God, since there is only one true God?

JW: Jesus is the mighty God and Jehovah is the Almighty God.

Christian: How can this be when Isaiah 43:10 declares,

"You are My witnesses, declares the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed and there will be none after Me."

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel...I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me." (Is 44:6)

"Is there any God besides Me, or is there any other Rock? I know of none." (44:8)

Christian: The Scriptures clearly teach that there is only ONE God not two. And the Bible refers to Jehovah as the Mighty God in Is 10:20-21

"But they will rely on the LORD, the Holy one of Israel. A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the Mighty God." (Is 10:20-21)

Christian: And Deut 6:4 declares, "Hear O' Israel that the LORD your God is One." So, how can you say that there are two Gods? Are you guys polytheists?

b. Mormons: Jesus becomes a "god" through self-effort.

The Mormon mantra: "As man is, god once was, and as god is, man may become."
"Jesus became a God...through consistent effort."

(M.R. Hunter. Gospel Through the Ages, 1945, 51)

Rebuttal: Is George Bush, by nature, President of the United States?

Is the Mormon god, by nature, God?

Look at the exhortation by Paul in Galatians 4:8 concerning false gods.