

4: Who Is Jesus?

In our last study we thought about the fall of man and its effects. The picture was bleak, but all along God had a plan for man's restoration and it all centres on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Is God

Jesus is God. He has existed and will continue to exist for eternity.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:1

Having the nature of God Himself, everything He does and says displays God's nature.

"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power..."

Hebrews 1:1 – 3

As the second person of the Trinity Jesus is one with the Father. He is the Father's equal: He is not inferior in any way.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."

Colossians 1:15 – 16

Everything that may be said of God can be said about Jesus as well.

"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

Colossians 2:9

Jesus Is a Man

Jesus is also truly human. He has a material body and a human nature with all its infirmities. Weakness, tiredness, wants and emotions are part of being human, and Jesus experienced them all. He was subject to the process of human development. As a man He was subject to temptation and as a man he knew the experience of suffering.

"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same."

Hebrews 2:14

Jesus Himself emphasised the fact that He is a man. The title He used most often for Himself was "Son of Man": a title no one else used of Him.

Question: As a man Jesus gives us a perfect example of what a man ought to be. In what ways can we apply that thought to help us with everyday decisions?

Jesus Is Without Sin

As the Son of God, Jesus was free from that hereditary depravity of which we spoke in the last study but in addition, whilst as a man he experienced the full force of every kind of

temptation, as God He had the ability to avoid sin: indeed, because He was God, it would have been impossible for Him to sin. He was the only man who could ever say:

“...for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.”

John 14:30

“In Him there is no sin.”

1 John 3:5

“...Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth.”

1 Peter 2:22

“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Hebrews 4:15

Jesus Is Unique

Clearly Jesus is unique. For one person to have two natures — both human and divine — seems impossible to understand yet God’s Word clearly teaches not merely that Jesus is sometimes human and sometimes divine, not even that He is part human and part divine but rather that He is at the same time both fully God and fully, perfectly man. The idea raises many questions for us; we must accept it by faith. If we try to explain it we will likely end up wandering into heresy, as others before us have done.

Jesus Is Our Mediator

Jesus was not always a man. He became a man at His conception and from that point forward His two natures were inseparably joined: He remains both God and man.

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

John 1:14

It was an essential part of God’s plan to restore fallen man.

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.”

Galatians 4:4 – 5

Salvation required a mediator — someone who could represent both God and man — and God appointed Jesus to the role. The mediator had to be without sin. Only God could meet that requirement but the penalty had to be borne by a sinless man. The mediator had to be a representative of Adam’s fallen race for it was man who had sinned. What is more that penalty involved the kind of suffering of body and soul that only a man can experience. There could be no other Mediator: only Jesus Christ the God-man could meet the requirements of the job.

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

Hebrews 2:17

Memory Verses

- ☺ John 1:1 and 14
- ☺ Colossians 1:15 – 16
- ☺ Colossians 2:9
- ☺ Hebrews 4:15