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Who is God?

God the Son, Our Lord

Intro

If you had to give up either your sight, hearing, or ability to walk, which would you choose? Why?

It's difficult to imagine becoming physically limited. Today we're going to look at how our unlimited God became limited for us.

Read catechism questions 49, 52, 54, 55, and 56

REVIEW

For the last couple of weeks, we have been looking at salvation, specifically our great need for salvation from God. We desperately need to be reconciled to God, yet we do not have the power to be reconciled to God. As an act of God's generous love, God the Father sent his only Son, Jesus, to become a man, to physically die in our place, so that we can be reconciled with God and have eternal life. Today we're going to begin to look at who Jesus is and over the next few weeks we're going to discover why he became a man, died on a cross, and then rose from the dead.

God became man

Watch "The Incarnation" by Odd Thomas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6-XtFfKVM4>

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is both God and man. This is an essential belief of Christianity (This is why we say Mormon and Jehovah witness' are not Christian – they do not believe Jesus to be fully human and divine). The apostle Paul wrote that the divinity of Jesus is required for us to be saved (Romans 10:9), and the apostle John

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warned that those who deny Christ's true humanity are promoting the doctrine of antichrist (2 John 1:7).

Many Christians are understandably confused when it comes to understanding how Jesus can be God and man at the same time. How could our God become a human? This would be like a person becoming a 2-d cartoon – it seems impossible. Could a first-century Jewish man really be God? While a certain amount of mystery will always accompany this issue, both Scripture and, to a lesser extent, church tradition provide for us important distinctions to help us make sense of this matter.

The act of Jesus becoming human is known as the incarnation. The early church considered the Incarnation to be one of the most important truths of our faith. Because of this, they formulated what has come to be called the Chalcedonean Creed, a statement which sets forth what we are to believe and what we are not to believe about the Incarnation. There are five main truths with which the creed of Chalcedon summarized the biblical teaching on the Incarnation:

1. Jesus has two natures — He is God and man.
2. Each nature is full and complete — He is fully God and fully man.
3. Each nature remains distinct – He is not some fused creature like a Griffin or Centaur.
4. Christ is only one Person.
5. Things that are true of only one nature are nonetheless true of the Person of Christ.

Let's break this down so that we can understand this better. The important thing to remember is that Jesus is one person with two natures.

Two Natures, One Person

Fully Human—

What does it mean to be a human?

Read the following passages. Write down what the passage tell us about Jesus.

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Jesus has a Human Body

- John 1.14 – _____
- Luke 2.7 – _____
- John 4.6 – _____
- John 19.28 – _____
- Matthew 4.2 – _____
- Luke 24.39 – _____

It is clear enough from the New Testament that Jesus has a human body.

Jesus has Human Emotions

- Matthew 8:10 – _____
- Matthew 26:38 – _____
- John 11:33–35 – _____

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus clearly displays human emotions.

Jesus has a Human Mind and Will

- Luke 2:52 – _____
- Mark 13:32 – _____
- John 6:38 – _____
- Matthew 26:39 – _____

Jesus has both an infinite, divine mind and a finite, human mind.

Fully Divine—

Although Jesus was fully human, he was still fully God. The Bible teaches that Jesus is not merely someone who is a lot like God, or someone who has a very close walk with God. Rather, Jesus is the Most High God himself. Titus 2:13 says that as Christians we are “looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our *great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.*” Upon seeing the resurrected Christ, Thomas cried out, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). Likewise, the book of Hebrews gives us God the Father’s

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direct testimony about Christ: "But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever" and the gospel of John calls Jesus "the only begotten God" (John 1:18).

Watch 3MC - Episode 27 - Who was Jesus?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOrq6pKGVCE>

Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

-Collect for Second Sunday after Christmas