

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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November 28, 2021

“THE HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST”

By William Stewart

For many people in Jesus' day, it was a challenge to accept His divinity. In fact, it was His claims to divine nature that caused the Pharisees to oppose Him so vehemently, even to the point of seeking His life.

After Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, some who believed in Christ went to the opposite extreme - affirming that Jesus did not come in the flesh. The apostle John wrote: *“...every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, who you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”* (1 John 4:3)

John doesn't give the reason behind their rejection of Jesus' humanity. There were a few different gnostic doctrines prevalent in the first century that denied the humanity of Christ. Some likely thought it inconsistent, even impossible for a divine person to also be human. Perhaps they could not reconcile the frailty and weakness of human flesh with the limitless power and might of deity.

No matter what the objection; regardless whether we are able to grasp how Jesus can be both God and man at the same time - the Bible says He is. Perhaps this is an example of what Paul meant when he wrote:

*“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”*
(Romans 11:33)

Just as some in today's religious world oppose the deity of Christ, there are some who stand against the humanity of Christ in our modern age. Much like their ancient counterparts, folks may not get how One person can be both divine and human. I'm not going to try to tell you how that works. I don't know; but what I do know is the Bible says Jesus is both. That is enough for me, and should be enough for every Bible believer.

There are many texts in the Bible that speak to the humanity of Christ.
Consider:

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”* (John 1:14)

In John 1:1, the Word was identified as God. In verse 14, the Word became flesh. There can be no doubt that this is Jesus Christ.

John 4:6 reads, *“...Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well...”* Jesus was journeying from Judea to Galilee. He was tired. He was fatigued. This is a characteristic of humanity, not deity.

Philippians 2:7-8 says, *“...He made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death...”*

Verse 6 said Jesus was in the form of God; verse 7 says He took the form of man. The word form is the same Greek word in both verses. Jesus was as much man as He was God. And He died! Is it possible for God to die? He died as a man.

Hebrews 2:14, 17 reads, "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same ... in all things He made to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest..." In Luke 24:39, after Jesus had risen from the dead, He invited the disciples to handle Him so they would believe in His bodily resurrection. He said "a spirit does not have flesh and bones." He had flesh and bones and blood - whatever it means to be human, that is what Jesus became.

Finally, Hebrews 4:15 says, "...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." Being a man, Jesus knew what it was to be tempted. He was tempted to sin, but did not yield. Jesus could not face temptation as God and serve as a sympathizing High Priest, for God cannot be tempted (James 1:13). He faced and overcame temptation as a man.

There are other texts that speak about the humanity of Christ, but for the honest truth seeker, these will suffice to demonstrate that Jesus was a human as you or I. To say so is not a denial of His deity; He was and is God. He is both God and man, as the Bible says.

“Lying Words”

By Jarrod M. Jacobs

“Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, are these” (Jer. 7:4, KJV). The NET records this passage as, “Stop putting your confidence in the false belief that says, “We are safe! The temple of the LORD is here! The temple of the LORD is here! The temple of the LORD is here!” What was going on with these people in Jeremiah’s day?

In context, notice that God has sent Jeremiah to warn this sinful nation of their sin. He went to the gate of the Temple and cried out, *“amend your ways and your doings”* (Jer. 7:2-3). They responded, *“The temple of the Lord,”* as if God would spare them from destruction because the Temple was in Jerusalem. They were reminded twice in this chapter not to trust in those lying words. The mere fact the Temple was in Jerusalem would not save them when the Babylonian army swept over them.

What would save them? God said salvation would come when they *“amend”* or change their ways (Jer. 7:5). In other words, repent, and they would be allowed to dwell in the land (v. 7). Notice that the key to their salvation was not in having the Temple in Jerusalem but living as God told them to live (v. 5-7). Even though many years had passed, the words of Joshua 24:14 were still valid, and they needed to worship God *“in sincerity and in truth”*! They could not “ride the fence” by practicing their abominations and then turn around, beaming about having the Temple there (Jer.7:9-15). That Temple was made of physical material and could be destroyed (and was, II Kings 25)!

Friend, beware that you don’t have the same attitude as the Israelites of old did. It is easy to slip into the mindset that I am bound for Heaven so long as I am a member or have my name on the “roll” of a sound church. This is not always the case! Don’t misunderstand; we know that salvation comes through Christ (Lk. 19:10), and all those who are saved are added to His church (Acts 2:38-47). My point is that we must examine ourselves (II Cor. 13:5) and make sure our actions match our words (Rev. 22:14; Lk. 6:46)! The people in Jeremiah’s day had to *“amend”* or change their ways because their actions did not match their words (Jer. 7:9-11). It takes more than merely having our names written on a piece of paper to be saved. We must be active in the Lord’s work (I Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10; Jas. 1:22-25; Heb. 5:9)!

It pains me to say this, but there will be people condemned to an eternity in Hell because their actions, speech, and thoughts were not in line with the Scriptures (II Cor. 5:10; Matt. 25:31-46). Yes, some of these will be people who claim to be members of the Lord’s church. Why will this happen? It will happen because they weren’t slaves to God (Rom. 12:1-2) but only obeyed when they felt like it. When confronted with their sin, they said, “I’m a member of the Lord’s body!” Just like those folks said, *“The Temple of the Lord!”* As if that were all that was required! Sadly, Christ will say, *“I never knew you”* (Matt. 7:23).

Let’s learn a lesson from this text and not act like those in Jeremiah 7!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Peggy Harville (cancer), Estell Wright, Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, Earl Mitchell, Betty Hurst, & Lowell Gann.

LuAnne Parish is recovering at Corner Stone room B15.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Rejoice Evermore"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

2 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
Page #13, Question #12

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson
Psalm 2:7-12
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Supper: Paul Johnson
Assisting: — —
Singing Service: *Men of the Congregation Lead in Singing*
Invitation: Jerry Kennemur
Closing Prayer: Sam Johnson

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

December 1st:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Book of Isaiah
Page #13, Question #4
Invitation: Paul Johnson
Song Leader: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade



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“Rejoice Evermore”

Lesson Text: **1 Thessalonians 5:16.**

I. What Does It Mean To Rejoice?

chairo (χαίρω, 5463), “to have joy, rejoice, be glad,”

(*Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 2, p. 226).

— Expressions of Joy: **1 Samuel 18:6-7; 2 Samuel 6:14-15; 1 Kings 1:40-45.**

II. What We Should Not Rejoice In?

- The Perversity of Evil- **Proverbs 2:14.**
- Not in Iniquity- **1 Corinthians 13:6.**
- When Your Enemy Falls- **Proverbs 24:17-18.**
- When We Are Far Away From God- **James 4:8-10.**

III. What Should We Rejoice In?

- In The Blessings From God- **Ecclesiastes 5:18-20.**
- The Day Which The Lord Has Made- **Psalms 118:24.**
- In The Wife of Our Youth- **Proverbs 5:18.**
- God’s Word- **Psalms 119:111; 162; 1 Samuel 30:15-16.**
- Our Salvation- **Psalms 13:5; Isaiah 61:10; 1 Peter 1:5-9; Acts 8:39; 16:34.**
- When Others Are Saved- **Luke 15:6; 9; 10; & 32; Acts 11:23.**
- In The Lord- **Philippians 4:4.**
- In Suffering For His Name- **Acts 5:40-42; James 1:2-4; Matthew 5:10-11.**
- The Promise of Heaven- **Matthew 5:12 (Luke 6:23); Revelation 19:1-9.**

IV. How Do We Rejoice In Difficult Times?

- Because Suffering and Trials Will One Day Cease- **2 Corinthians 4:16-18.**
- Therefore, We Look Beyond The Suffering- **Hebrews 12:1-2.**
- We Fully Trust That God Will Deliver Us- **2 Corinthians 1:8-10.**