

Jesus is Human - Romans 5:12-19, Luke 2:41-52
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Jesus is God. Jesus is human. Eternally God put on flesh and for the rest of eternity shares our humanity with us. We call this simple truth the doctrine of the incarnation, which means “in the flesh”. God put on flesh as the means, the only means by which the holy and righteous God could save rebellious and sinful humanity. On one level, this is a simple truth, yet it opens a deep cavern of truth that no human has completely explored. The deeper one looks into the incarnation the more profound the mystery. It took the early church nearly five centuries, a myriad of heresies, and multiple church councils to develop a clear doctrinal understanding of this truth. Yes, the basic truth is clear in Scripture, yet, belief in Christ’s humanity and divinity does open a couple cans of worms for us.

First, how can we believe that Jesus is God, and that the Father to whom He prayed is also God, yet maintain belief in one God. If Jesus is not fully God, then those who worship Him are committing idolatry and breaking the First Commandment. Maybe its just that the singular God sometimes God shows up as the Father, other times as Jesus, and still other times as the Holy Spirit. I’ve heard the doctrine of the trinity compared to a guy who is a son, husband, and father, and he appears to people in different relationships taking different roles. Now, sorry if you have used this description of the Trinity to your children, it is a heresy called modalism rejected by the church in the 4th Century. God does not just have three modes or relationships, He is three distinct persons who make up the One True and Living God. Eventually the glorious doctrine of the Trinity was developed by early church leaders who scoured the Scriptures and developed clarity for us over against heresies denying the tri-unity of God.

The second can of worms is trying to understand how one person, Jesus, could actually have two distinct and separate natures without being considered schizophrenic. We do not believe that Jesus just appeared to be a human but was really God, nor do we believe that Jesus was a creation of God who is god-like. Nor do we believe that Jesus has a human body but his spirit and mind were divine. Again, the more you delve into it the more the mind is blown. Jesus did not divest himself of a single attribute of deity, yet He took on all that is humanity. The nature of God, the nature of man, and He is one person, Jesus Christ. The early theologians debated this deep cavern as well, pushing back against views that did not line up with Scripture, and eventually developing a statement on the person of Christ at the Council of Chalcedon in 451 affirming the truth that Jesus is “perfect in Godhood and also perfect in manhood.” (NOTE- you can read the entire statement from the post on the Genesis Blog or Koinonia). Early theologians came to know this truth as the hypostatic union, or the union of two natures in one hyposis (person). Jesus Christ is truly God, truly man, our redeemer.

Now, these theologians did not make these truths up. They found them in the revelation of God found in the Scriptures. Just read the Gospels and these truths will leap off the page. Every Gospel will affirm that Jesus is God, and not just any God. The God revealed in the Old Testament. Yet He prays to the Father and does the will of the Father. And we see the beauty of the humanity everywhere in the story. Jesus was an embryo in his mother, Mary, and was then born and laid in a manger. He went through adolescence. Jesus got hungry, experienced pain, had to sleep. He had friends, and then those friends betrayed him. And Jesus died. He took on full humanity and had the

full range of human emotions and experiences, yet without sin.

Paul calls Jesus the second Adam, the second human who came as a representation. In Romans 5 Paul lays out a simple yet profound argument about the need for Jesus to be fully human like us. Adam's sin tainted all of us, and we too followed in Adam's footsteps of sin which caused death to reign. If God chose to just forgive sin without Jesus it would destroy His perfection, His righteousness, His holiness. So it took a new Adam, a second man to enter our sphere and keep the Law for us, and then die the death we deserve. The value of His life and sacrifice are infinite because He is God. But his life and death are atoning because he was the Second Adam, human like us. So death reigns through Adam, righteousness and life reign for those who believe because of the God-man, Jesus Christ.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Ecclesiastes 12	Mark 1	Mark 2	Mark 3	Mark 4	Mark 5	Mark 6

Reading from this past week: Romans 5:12-19, Luke 2:41-52

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 24:44-49

Family Worship

Song - *Jesus*

<https://youtu.be/cEbQswNB6Wc>

Gospel Project

Unit: In the Beginning

Story: Jesus was tempted.

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus do to save us?

Answer: Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Scripture: Matthew 4, Luke 4

New City Catechism

Question #13: Can anyone keep the Law of God perfectly?

Answer: Since the fall, no human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly.

Verse: Romans 3:10-12

Scripture

Romans 5:12-19, Luke 2:41-52

- What are some ways the Gospels reveal the true humanity of Jesus? What are some things he does that show us He was a man?
- Which is a bit more difficult for you to believe. That Jesus is the eternal God, or that Jesus for the rest of time became human?
- Why did we need a human Savior? How is Jesus the second Adam?
- Why do we need to look at Jesus as both our redeemer and our example?

Prayer

*Pray that this series would drive the truths that Jesus is fully God and also fully man deep into our hearts and minds.

*Pray for the Genesis family Easter event scheduled for this Saturday.