

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

John 1:14

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The **humanity of Jesus** is as essential to the Christian faith as his deity. The New Testament teaching and the orthodox Christian position regarding the Person of Christ is that **Jesus is truly God and truly man** in the fullest sense of the terms. In His Person is a union of two distinct natures — human and divine. In this union the two natures did not combine or confuse so as to produce a unique, third kind of nature; nor was there a dual personality. Rather, the product was a single unique Person, a Person with two natures. Jesus is truly human in every essential aspect. Indeed, Jesus, being sinless, is the most authentic human being who ever lived.

- I. One of the first heresies to enter the early church was the doctrine of docetism (from the Greek verb *dokeo*, "to seem"). - 1 John 4:2, 3
 - A. This teaching claimed that Jesus Christ only seemed to be human, that He did not actually become flesh. (MORMANS)
 - B. Advocates of this doctrine taught that Jesus possessed divinity only from the time of His death. This denies the truth of the incarnation as taught in scripture (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 22, 23; Luke 1:26-31, 34, 35).
- II. Except that He never sinned (John 8:29; 14:30; 2 Corinthians

5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 9:14; 10:7; 1 Peter 1:19; 2:22; 1 John 3:5)

A. Jesus Christ was fully man as well as He was God. - Acts 3:22; John 1:14; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14, 17

III. Physically, He was the same as we are. - Romans 5:15
(Christ was man even as Adam was man.)

A. He was born of our flesh, of a woman. - Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14 (Matthew 1:23); Matthew 1:16, 21, 25; Luke 1:31, 32; 2:7; John 1:14; Acts 2:30; Romans 1:3; 8:3; Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 2:14-18

B. He grew physically - Isaiah 53:2; Luke 2:40, 52

C. He had a body of flesh and bones - Luke 24:39; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:14

D. His veins contained blood. - John 19:34

E. He hungered. - Matthew 4:2 (Luke 4:2); Matthew 21:18; Mark 11:12

F. He thirsted. - Psalms 69:21; John 19:28

G. He became weary and slept. - Matthew 8:24 (Mark 4:38) *In the boat sleeping*; John 4:6 (At Jacobs Well, he was weary and sat down)

H. He died. - Matthew 27:50 (Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:30); 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 2:9, 14

IV. Jesus also had a human soul and therefore possessed the same emotions as any other man.

A. He rejoiced. - Luke 10:21 (after disciples returned from casting out demons)

- B. He was angered. - Matthew 21:12 (cleanses the temple);
- C. He suffered great mental anguish. - **Luke 22:44**
 - i. Isaiah described Him as "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." - Isaiah 53:3; Matthew 26:37, 38 (Mark 14:33, 34); John 11:33, 38; 12:27; 13:21
 - ii. He was forsaken, deserted, alone. One of His closest friends betrayed Him. Matthew 26:56; Mark 14:50; **Isaiah 53:3**; **Psalms 69:20**
 - iii. He was laughed at and mocked. - Matthew 9:24b (Mark 5:40); Luke 22:63
- D. He felt compassion for those to whom He ministered. - Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 20:34; 15:3; Mark 6:34; 8:2, 3; Luke 7:13
- E. He wept. - **Hebrews 5:7**
 - i. At Lazarus' death. - John 11:33, 35
 - ii. Over Jerusalem. - Luke 19:41

V. The fact that He was the Son of God did not make Jesus Christ exempt from spiritual warfare, either.

A. He, too, struggled in prayer - Luke 22:41-44

B. He was tempted as we are.

- i. Matthew 4 (Mark 1:13; Luke 4); Hebrews 2:17, 18; 4:15

Conclusion:

Therefore, having lived a normal life as the carpenter's son

(Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3; Luke 2:51), and having endured much suffering Himself...

1. Jesus understands and can "sympathize" with our feelings and weaknesses, He understands our lives because He has lived it also, (Heb. 2:18).
 - a. Hebrews 4:14, 15 ("be touched" = "sympathize," Greek)
2. Only as man can Jesus truly represent men to God, (Heb. 2:17); Hebrews 5:2
3. As man He provided for us the pattern for living as men, (1 Pet. 2:21).