

Jesus, The God-Man

Jesus

“Yes, if the life and death of Socrates are those of a wise man, the life and death of Jesus are those of a god” – Jean Jacques Rousseau, d. 1778, French deistic philosopher and author

The unique thing about Jesus is not His Deity – He shares it with Father and Spirit
His manhood is His alone

It makes Him unique in Godhood and in God’s plan. There is no other “God-man.”

Jesus in Daniel

¹³ “I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the **Son of Man**, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed” – Dn.7

Jesus in Mark

61 Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” **62** Jesus said, “I am. And you will see the **Son of Man** sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven” – Mk.14

Reaction: **64** “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” And they all condemned him to be deserving of death.

I. The Nature of Jesus Always Provoked Controversy

Ebionism (AD 107?)

- Sect of Jews who denied divinity of Christ, believing Him to be merely a man with an unmeasured fullness of the divine Spirit resting on Him.
- Translated: [He is on par with apostles]

Docetism (AD 70-170)

- Believed matter is evil, thus denied reality of Christ's body.
- [Like Casper]

Arianism (AD 325)

- Arianism (Arius: condemned at Nice, 325).
- Origen had taught separate essence between Father and Son, and subordination of Son as secondary God beneath Father.
- Furnished starting point for Arian heresy. Father alone is God; Jesus is a creature. Passages seem to place Christ in category of what is created, ascribe growth, lack of knowledge, weariness, sorrow, and other changing human affections to Him.
- [Watchtower]

Apollinarianism (AD 362-431)

- Apollinaris was condemned at Constantinople, 381
- Denied the completeness of Christ's humanity. He believed it was impossible to join full divinity with full humanity in one person, of two wholes in one whole.
- [A god not all-powerful]

Nestorianism (AD 428-431)

- Nestorius was removed from Patriarchate of Constantinople, 431.
- Denied the real union between the divine and human natures in Christ.
- Instead of God-man, a mere God-bearing man.
- Jesus was only the instrument or temple in which the divine Word dwells.
- [A walking temple]

Eutychianism (AD 449)

- Condemned at Chalcedon, 451.
- Eutyches denied the distinction and coexistence of the two natures and held to a mingling of both into one, thus making a third nature.
- This made Jesus' body of a different substance from ours – a divine body.
- Thus God was crucified, God died.
- [A chemical process – H₂O]

I. The Nature of Jesus
Always Provoked Controversy

II. Dual Nature of Jesus –
Man and God, Human and Divine

He is fully man ^(1/2)

- “**Man**”: Jn.8:40, But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this.
 1. Anticipates murderer (man-killer), 44
 2. They are children of the murderer
 3. Ac.2:22-23

He is fully man (2/2)

- He possessed characteristics of human nature
 1. Birth, Mt.2:1
 2. Growth, Lk.2:40
 3. Temptation, Mt.4:1
 4. Hunger, Mt.4:2
 5. Sleep, Mt.8:24
 6. Death, Mt.27:50

He is fully God

- Four times declares descent from heaven,
Jn.6:38, 50, 51, 58
- Apostles had received greatest privilege –
Father had been manifested in the Son.
Jn.14:8-11

He led a double life

- Always speaks of Himself as a single Person; never uses plural of Himself
 1. Son of Man . . . ascend . . . John 6:62
 2. Informed of Lazarus' sickness (Jn.11:3,6); knew Lazarus was dead (11:11,14)
 3. Crucified . . . Lord of glory, 1 Co.2:8
 4. One God and one Mediator between God and men . . . 1 Tim.2:5
 5. . . . handled . . . Word of life . . . 1 Jn.1:1

Summary

- Some passages emphasize His humanity – might conclude He is man alone.
- Other passages emphasize His Deity – might conclude He is God alone.

Truth:
He is both

I. The Nature of Jesus
Always Provoked Controversy

II. Dual Nature of Jesus
Man and God, Human and Divine

III. Jesus Was Deity During
His Earthly Ministry

Scriptures expressly call Him “God”

- **22** So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: **23** “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us” – Mt. 1

Scriptures expressly call Him “God”

- ¹ In the beginning **was the Word**, and the Word was **with God**, and the **Word was God** . . . ¹⁴ 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 – Jn.1
 - He existed before time
 - He existed with God
 - His nature is God
 - He became flesh (14)

Scriptures expressly call Him “God”

- **33** The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God” – **Jn.10** [verse 30]
 - Our idea of Father and Son refers to source of being, dependence, etc.
 - Oriental expression refers to likeness or sameness of nature; equality of being
 - **Human** son (nature = father’s). **Humanity**
 - **Divine** Son (nature = Father’s). **Deity**

OT descriptions of God apply to Him

- Is.40³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.”
- Mt.3³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:
- *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’”*

OT descriptions of God apply to Him

- Is.6¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.
- Jn.12⁴¹ These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

OT descriptions of God apply to Him

- Ps.68¹⁸ You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, Even *from the rebellious*, That the LORD God might dwell *there*.
- Ep.4⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

He does the works of God

- Jn.1³ All things were made through Him... without Him nothing was made that was made
- Hb.3³ For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.

He does the works of God

- Mt.9:2, 6, forgiveness.
 - Repeated in universal context: Lk.24:47
 - If they misunderstood, why not correct their false views?
 - He charged them with evil thoughts (4); He reaffirmed His power to forgive (6)
 - True: only God can forgive. What does this mean in Mt.9?
- Col.1:17, And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

He received honor and worship

- Mt.23⁸ But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. ⁹ Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰ And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.
- Jesus accepted such titles / acts –
 - Jn.9:2, Rabbi
 - Jn.13:13, Teacher, Lord...
 - Jn.5:23, worship

His Name is associated with God on equal basis

- Mt.28¹⁹ baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...
- 1 Co.1³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ ...
¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

His Name is associated with God on equal basis

- Jn.5¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”
- ²¹ as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.
- ²² For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.

His Name is associated with God on equal basis

- Jn.5:17 21 22
- ²³ that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.
- ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice...

He claimed equality with God

- Jn.5¹⁸ Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.
 - “Behold, the Jews understand what the Arians fail to understand”
 - Instead of denying or clarifying, He reaffirms and defends it

Conclusions

- If Jesus is not God then . . .
 - I am an idolater...
 - Bible is the most blasphemous book in the world
 - Jesus cannot be good