

C. The Nature of Christ

- **Note:** Christ is one hundred percent man, and He is one hundred percent God.

1. His Humanity

a. Christ was born of a woman.

- The Eternal Son of God added humanity to His deity when he was born of a woman.

Galatians 4:4 “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman...”

Warren Wiersbe “Paul is careful to point out the dual nature of Jesus Christ, that He is both God and man. As God, Jesus “came forth”; but as man, He was “made of a woman.”

Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...”

- Jesus natural birth emphasizes the FULL humanity of Christ.

Luke 2:5-6 “To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.(6) And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.”

- **Note:**Some believe that Jesus didn’t have any race. However, this is a wrong perception.
- Jesus was born of Mary, who is a Jew, therefore, this would make Jesus Jewish.

John 4:9 “Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.”

- A prophetic description of the Lord tells that outwardly Jesus look liked like an ordinary Jew. Jesus was not arrayed with beauty.

Isaiah 53:2 “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”

- People did not flock to see His wonderful appearance, but rather they witnessed His Words and Works.
- Judas identified Jesus to the soldiers with a kiss, thus indicating that Jesus was a normal looking Jewish man.

b. Christ had a human genealogy.

<p style="text-align: center;">Matthew's Gospel Genealogy through Joseph</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Luke's Gospel</u> Genealogy through Mary</p>
<p>➤ Matthew's genealogy moves forward, from Abraham to Joseph:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This presents Jesus – who is Jewish – referring to His legal family tree. <p><i>Matthew 1:2</i> “Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;”</p> <p><i>Matthew 1:16</i> “And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matthew follows Joseph’s line (His legal lineage by adoption). - Joseph was married to Mary and was Christ’s legal heir only. Therefore, Jesus was not Joseph's literal offspring. - The royal line is passed through Jesus' legal father. This gives Christ legal right to the throne of David. <p>➤ Christ never claimed to be the son of Joseph.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus was called “the son of Joseph” by others as assumptions. <p><i>Luke 4:22</i> “And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. <u>And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?</u>”</p> <p><i>John 6:42</i> “<u>And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?</u> how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?”</p>	<p>➤ Luke's genealogy moves backward, from Jesus to Adam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This present Jesus (Who is the Son of man) referring to His blood-line. <p><i>Luke 3:23</i> “And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “As was supposed” – means as was generally thought, or perhaps being legally recognized as Joseph son. <p><i>Luke 3:38</i> “Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Luke follows Mary’s line (Jesus’ actual lineage) - Mary was a descendant of David. Jesus’ physical descent from David is through Mary's lineage. - According to custom, genealogies were commonly traced through the father, not the mother. However, this is a unique situation because of the miracle virgin birth. - Therefore, Christ is the seed of a Woman. <p><i>Romans 1:3</i> “Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;”</p> <p>Note: The Messianic line finished with the Lord Jesus. No one else can ever present lawful legal claim to the throne of David.</p>

c. **Jesus Christ experienced human development.**

- Christ was subject to the normal process of human growth, intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially.

1) Physical Growth

***Luke 2:52** “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”*

Note: Jesus possessed the elements of human nature.

- **Body,**

***Hebrews 2:14** “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;”*

***John 1:14** “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...”*

- **Soul & Spirit,**

***John 12:27** “Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.”*

- The term used here is strong and refers to his being... Jesus knew the horror, and agony that would soon come. Jesus' contemplated the hour of taking on the wrath of God on behalf of sinners.

***Luke 23:46** “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”*

2) In Wisdom

***Luke 2:52** “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”*

- Again we have the true humanity and normal growth of our Lord portrayed:
 - ✓ His mental growth—**increased in wisdom.**
 - ✓ His physical growth—**and stature.**
 - ✓ His spiritual growth—**in favor with God.**
 - ✓ His social growth—**in favor with men.**

***Luke 2:40** “And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.”*

d. Jesus Christ experienced Human limitations.

1) Jesus experienced hunger	<i>Matthew 4:2</i> “And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward <u>anhungred</u> .”
2) Jesus experienced thirst	<i>John 19:28</i> “After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, <u>I thirst</u> .”
3) Jesus experienced weariness	<i>John 4:6</i> “Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being <u>wearied</u> with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.”
4) Jesus experienced sleep	<i>Luke 8:23</i> “But as they sailed he fell <u>asleep</u> : and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy.”
5) Jesus experienced agony	<i>Luke 22:44</i> “And being in an <u>agony</u> he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”
6) Jesus experienced temptation	<i>Hebrews 4:15</i> “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points <u>tempted</u> like as we are, yet without sin.”
7) Jesus experienced death	<i>Luke 23:46</i> “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, <u>he gave up the ghost</u> .”

e. **Christ experiences limitations to fulfil the will of God.**

<p>1 Corinthians 11:3 “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Christ willingly submitted Himself to the Father's will in humble obedience.- Jesus was under the authority of God the Father yet He is equally God and equal with the Father.	<p style="text-align: center;">God ↓ Christ ↓ Man ↓ Woman</p>
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Christ was in FULL submission to the FATHER

1) Christ was sent by the Father

John 8:42 “Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me”

2) Christ stated the Father was greater

John 14:28 “Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.”

- **Question:** Why was the Father greater than Christ?
- John 17:4-5

3) Christ was dependent upon the Father

John 5:19 “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”

4) Christ was under the authority of the Father

John 5:30 “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”

5) Christ voluntarily gave up any knowledge of the time of His return to earth

Mark 13:32 “But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.”

- When Christ became a man, He willingly limited the use of certain divine attributes.
- Jesus did not manifest them unless directed by the Father. This gives great evidence that Christ FULLY submitted to the will of the Father, leaving a perfect example to follow:
- Notice what Paul states to the church at Philippi.

Philippians 2:5-8 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

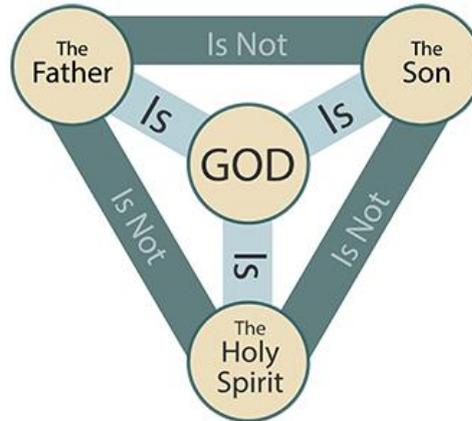
Christ is the ultimate example of selfless humility

- **Selfless Mind** – “...made himself of no reputation...(Incarnation)
Note: Jesus **did not** empty himself of His deity.
- **Servant Mind** – ...and took upon him the form of a servant...(come in the likeness of man)
- **Self-abased Mind** – ...he humbled himself...(The greatest act of Humility)
- **Submissive Mind** – ...became obedient unto death...
- **Sacrificial Mind** – even the death of the cross.”
- Matthew 10:24-25
- John 13:14-16
- John 15:18-19

2. His Deity

- **Note:** Jesus is one hundred percent God in human form. **Jesus is the second person of the God-head.**

1 John 5:7 “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”



a. Scripture declares Christ’s divinity

1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh...”

1 John 5:20 “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”

- Jesus is the true God and eternal life:
- Jesus was fully man and the true God and eternal life.
- We cannot proclaim the humanity of Jesus over His deity and His deity over His humanity. He is both: fully God and fully man.

Titles	Old Testament	New Testament
1) Lord	<i>Isaiah 45:22-23</i> “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. (23) I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.”	<i>Philippians 2:9-11</i> “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (10) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; (11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
2) The Great I am	<i>Isaiah 43:10</i> “Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have	<i>John 8:24</i> “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he,

	<p><i>chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.</i>”</p>	<p>ye shall die in your sins.</p> <p>John 8:58 “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”</p>
<p>3) Saviour</p>	<p>Isaiah 43:11 “I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.”</p>	<p>Titus 1:3-4“But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of <u>God our Saviour</u>;(4) To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and <u>the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.</u>”</p> <p>Titus 2:13 “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”</p>
<p>4) The Shepherd</p>	<p>Psalms 23:1 “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”</p> <p>Ezekiel 34:11 “For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.”</p>	<p>John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”</p> <p>1 Peter 2:25 “For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”</p> <p>1 Peter 5:4 “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”</p>
<p>5) God</p> <p>Only God is to be Worshipped.</p>	<p>Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”</p>	<p>John 10:30-33 “I and my Father are one.(31) Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.(32) Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?(33) The Jews answered him,</p>

	<i>Matthew 2:11 “And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”</i>	<i>saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.”</i>
6) Creator	<i>Isaiah 40:28 “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.”</i>	<i>Acts 14:15 “And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:”</i>
7) King	<i>Jeremiah 10:10 “But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.”</i>	<i>Revelation 19:16 “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”</i>

b. Jesus declares His Deity

***John 14:8-9** “Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. (9) Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”*

- The Lord Jesus is the exact image of God the Father.
- Not referring to the physical image because God is, in essence, a Spirit; but in every possible way Christ perfectly represents the Father.
- The Son, being God, reveals to man exactly what God is like.

***John 12:44-45** “Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.(45) And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.”*

In Acts 16:31-34 we see John 12:44-45 in Action.