



THE
PERFECT
ONE

*A Study of the Person and Work of
Jesus Christ:*
FULLY MAN & FULLY GOD

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Christology

A Study of the Person of Jesus Christ

Welcome to this study of the Word of God concerning the Person of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was fully man and fully God. Both of these identities were necessary for Him to accomplish His incredible mission, the redemption and restoration of man. This study is intended to be a set of *tools* in the hand of the believer. Tools are helpful in two significant ways: they enable us to *build* and they enable us to *repair*. Scriptural truths become important doctrinal tools as we build our life of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They are also important in repairing those areas which may have been built erroneously during our journey of faith.

This study is an in-depth examination of what scripture declares concerning Jesus Christ: He was Son of Man and Son of God. The conclusions drawn and the doctrine set forth are based on a systematic study of the scriptures. I will use a premise that is drawn from the early church Fathers, councils throughout the ages, and overwhelmingly embraced today, Protestant and Catholic alike: that Jesus Christ was *fully man* and *fully God*. One person, two natures. It has been seen throughout the ages that groups that err from this position rapidly produce and embrace erroneous doctrines that eventually take believers away from a life of trust and faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ. For some, this leads them back to an Old Covenant

system of works and fear, believing they have to add something to the work that Jesus Christ accomplished for their salvation to be complete. There is no ‘rest of God’ in this path. The *person and work* of Jesus Christ is constantly being humanized, minimized and devalued.

Please enjoy this study and revel in the awesome plan of God that extends from before the foundation of the world to and throughout eternity. I will begin with the Incarnation and explain how ‘God became man’ in the person of Jesus. I will then be looking at the reasons the scriptures reveal why it was necessary for Jesus to be fully man. Finally we will look at the scriptures that reveal why it was necessary that ‘Jesus was fully God’. That Jesus was *fully God and fully man* is no more unreasonable to believe than believing in the *Trinity*, or believing that man is *spirit, soul and body*. These are all truly mysteries, yet the scriptures are clear on their veracity. May the Lord bless you as you read and study this awesome topic of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. How God Became a Man The Incarnation

1Tim. 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

God was manifested in the flesh,

Justified in the Spirit,

Seen by angels,

Preached among the Gentiles,

Believed on in the world,

Received up in glory.

That there is controversy surrounding this mystery is no surprise! Paul writing to Timothy proclaimed that the issue of godliness was not only a mystery, but a *great* one. The interesting thing about mysteries is the necessity of *revelation*. You cannot *figure out* a great mystery. That is what makes it great. Until the author reveals the solution, you can only speculate about the conclusion with the limited clues that are available. The Word of God however does not leave anything to guess about. As we will examine in a systematic manner, God is clear about this mystery, and we must draw our conclusions from what is revealed by the *Author* concerning this mystery. Substituting one's own wisdom can only lead to disaster!

Here, Paul, through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, declares that 'God was manifested in the flesh.' There is a double-edged claim made in this verse. This one statement quickly

and effectively asserts the *dual nature of Christ*. ‘God was manifested in the flesh.’ This is a reference to the incarnation, which literally means ‘becoming flesh’. God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. The ‘flesh’ is the *nature of man*, and obviously ‘God’ is the *nature of Divinity*. This uniting of deity and humanity within Jesus Christ is known as *Hypostatic Union*. This is the union of two natures comprising one Person or hypostasis forever. This will be examined more fully in Chapter 3, ‘How the Dual Nature Operated’. For now, though, let’s continue looking at the Word concerning this subject:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

- **Col. 1:17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

John 1:14 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.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

John 1:34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

Jesus was God and Man

Just as the Trinity is a mystery of its own, with the Godhead of Father, Son and Holy Spirit being essentially One, so is the mystery of godliness. **John 1:1** and **Colossians 1:17** declare that Jesus Christ was *in the*

beginning, He was *before all things*. Being born as a man, He was the Word and the *Word was God*.

John continues in v14 to reveal in clarity this mystery of Hypostatic Union when he declares that Jesus '**the Word**', who is *God*, became *flesh*, dwelt among us (in the flesh as a human), and His *glory was beheld* as the only begotten of the Father. It is clear from the Word that Jesus Christ was God and man. *The Word, which is God, became flesh*. He was the Son of God, begotten (in the flesh) of the Father. Jesus was God manifested in the flesh.

Jesus Not a Created Being

It is important to note that the Word declares that Jesus was *in the beginning* and that He was *before all things*. Jesus Christ was not and is *not a created being*. He was with God in the beginning and He was before all things. When Jesus is referred to as the "begotten" of the Father, that is referring to the context of the incarnation.

John 1:3 contains two direct statements that tell us that it was the *preexistent* Jesus who created all things. "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." Notice that John is not content to say only that all things were made through Him, but John adds the fact that "without Him nothing was made."

Paul confirms exactly what John wrote: "For by Him all things were created." Paul goes on to make sure that we understand what he means by all things. These encompass all things "that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or

principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him." (Colossians 1:16).

Since Jesus created all things, He could not have been one of the "created things." Paul then adds, so there can be no mistake, "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (verse 17, NIV).

The context of this passage makes it clear that there are no exceptions: Christ is the Creator of all things including angels and everything visible or invisible. Nowhere is this made more clear that Christ is not a creature —angelic or otherwise—than in the relation of angels to Him. Since Christ could not be both the Creator of everything and at the same time a creature Himself, it is necessary to conclude that He is Himself the *uncreated Creator* of all creation.

Because this subject is a *mystery*, there have been attempts to define it with human understanding. This leads to bad doctrine, or as it is called historically, heresy. One such heresy that was encountered in the early church was the teaching of the Arian doctrine. This basically denied our Lord's full Godhead, combined with an admission of all his other attributes.

In view of the clear teaching that Christ is Creator and *not a creature*, the Arian misinterpretations (embraced by the Mormons and Jehovah's Witness) of phrases like Christ is 'firstborn' (Colossians 1:15) or 'beginning of creation' (Revelation 3:14) are wrong. Christ is 'firstborn' in the sense of being the unique (not created) Son of God. Christ is first over creation, not

first in it. (Numerous articles for further reference and discussion have been written on this subject from the linguistic, historical, grammatical and scriptural context in response to the Watchtower publications assertion that Jesus was created.)

The Arian interpretation, which makes Jesus a created being, denies the deity of Jesus Christ as a man on the earth, thus making Him solely man and not God. This introduces further misinterpretations in placing Jesus in the position of having the need to save Himself before He could become God. This opens up other lines of misinterpretation that undermine the *person and work* of Jesus Christ by *humanizing, minimizing and devaluing* His life and work.

Jesus was not created. He existed from eternity along with God the Father. He was God manifested in the flesh of man. (There will be more on this in chapter 3)

How It Happened

Luke 1:26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name *was* Mary. **28** And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" **29** But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. **30** Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. **32** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. **33** And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His

kingdom there will be no end.” 34 Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” 35 And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” 36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible.” 38 Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Matt. 1:23 *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,”* which is translated, “God with us.”

From these familiar scriptures we understand that God chose Mary to supernaturally impregnate through the Holy Spirit, so that through conception with a human (Mary), Jesus could be a *human* flesh and blood person whose father would be *God*. This answers the question that Mary asked, “How?” But that is not all. In the story relating to how it was to happen, we find further confirmation of the Hypostatic Union! Notice the terminology that the scriptures use concerning the titles and descriptions of Jesus: ‘Son of the Highest’, the ‘Holy One’, the ‘Son of God’, and ‘Immanuel’, which is translated, “God with us”.

These are all terms that declare, pronounce and attest to the *divinity of God* being resident in the flesh of a *human man*, Jesus Christ. ‘Holy One’ declares the holy nature of the man Jesus. ‘Holy’ here is not just an adjective describing a man, but a declaration of the nature of that man, being the Holiness of God. ‘Son of God’ is a title and description of the identity of Jesus. He was begotten of the Father and thus was the Son of God, not just a mere man. The word ‘Immanuel’

leaves no room for argument as to the dual nature of Jesus when the Word itself translates Immanuel as '*God with us*.'

We have systematically seen that 1 Timothy 3:16, John 1:14, Luke 1:35, and Matthew 1:23 (Isaiah 7:14) all declare that God took on the form of flesh. It is also stated in **Philippians 2:7**, which we will look at in Chapter 3. For now we have the witness of the Holy Spirit on this subject of the Hypostatic Union from the Apostle Paul, the Apostle John, the Apostle Luke, the Apostle Matthew, and the Prophet Isaiah. I feel that this is sufficient evidence for this particular point of truth, which is essential for a proper understanding of the subject of Christology. And this is not even a complete review of the scriptures on the issue! The Gospel of Luke refers to Jesus as 'Lord' eighteen times!

It is interesting to note that the following chapters of this book stand on their own merit. In other words, each truth about the Person of Jesus Christ is self-sustaining, so that one truth is not dependant on the previous one. That is because when the scriptures are examined systematically, they form their own defense.

I will look more at the ramifications of God being born of a human in the next chapter, but for now I believe it is sufficient from the scriptures that have been presented to conclude that Jesus Christ was born a human as God. To refute that fact flies in the face of the Apostolic record and inspired scripture. Jesus incarnate Deity simply means that Jesus was God in the flesh.

2. How God Became a Man Link to Adam's Sin Broken

What I want to look at next, since we just studied the Incarnation, is a significant *ramification* of how the whole process took place. This is not a lengthy topic, but an extremely important one!

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God. The Book of Revelation reveals this about His death:

Rev. 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

He was the Lamb of God before His incarnation. He was the Lamb of God while He lived in the flesh as a human. He is the Lamb of God that is found worthy to open the scroll sealed with seven seals in the future.

Rev. 5:6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. **7** Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

To be the Lamb of God, Jesus had to be spotless, or without sin. This would mean that not only could He not be found with *His own sin*, but must also be found *without the sin nature that is passed on from Adam* to every human being that has been born.

1Cor. 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

From the last chapter and the Book of Luke we learned the following things: Mary was a virgin. She had not had sex with a man, and she wondered how she was going to become pregnant. The angel Gabriel told her that conception would take place when the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of the Highest would overshadow her. This means that *germination* was to be from God Himself through the Holy Spirit. Since Jesus was the ‘Son of God’ we understand that God was literally **His Father**.

This being the case, Jesus was conceived by Mary *without the stain of Adam’s sin* that comes through the father. Jesus did not receive the ‘spiritually defective seed’ from Adam.

It is also interesting to note that medically speaking, no blood is passed from the woman to the child in the womb. *Jesus was born as Adam was created*: clean from sin, and in an ‘un-fallen’, undefiled with sin state. The link to Adam and his sin was broken because Jesus received His life from His **Father God!** Jesus was able to become a human *without the taint of Adam’s sin*, which would have disqualified Him from being the spotless Lamb of God!

Jesus did not eventually qualify for that distinction, the Word teaches that He was *born with it!* That is why the Word calls Him the '*Last Adam.*'

1Cor. 15:45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

This is extremely important (as well as incredibly creative and innovative) to understand in order to stay clear of misinterpretation that is taught concerning who Jesus was because of his birth through a woman. As mentioned earlier the Mormons, Jehovah's Witness, and other's teach that Jesus was a *created being* and therefore had to *save Himself* and work out His own salvation before He could qualify to save us from our sins. If Jesus was a created being, more specifically being born naturally of a human woman, then He would be unclean in the since of not being divine and bearing Adam's sin. He would have to earn His divinity through works.

We understand from the scriptures that we have previously reviewed that this is not scriptural or true at all. The scripture teaches that *Jesus was God*, not created, and that He was the *Lamb of God*, which means that He was without spot or blemish (sin).

1Pet. 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Heb. 4:15 For 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.

This verse declares that Jesus was *without sin*, which not only means that *He did not sin*, but that He had *no sin at all, including Adam's*. The legacy that Jesus left from living His life here speaks for itself:

Heb. 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. **26** For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens...

In summary, Jesus was the spotless Lamb of God. For Him to qualify for this title, He had to be born as a man but :

- Free from Adam's sin
- He had to live a sinless life

He was without sin, without blemish, holy, undefiled and separate from sinners. He had no need of cleansing or 'saving Himself' in the sense of having a condition to be saved from that would separate Him from God. Bless God for a perfect plan of redemption that solved a mystery that seemed to have no solution!

3. How God Became a Man How the Dual Nature Operated

We have seen that there was the dual nature in Jesus, the nature of God and the nature of man and how the dual nature came to be. Now we want to look at *how* the dual nature operated. The key scripture for this part of the study is:

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **7** but *made Himself of no reputation*, taking the *form* of a bondservant, and coming in the *likeness* of men. **8** And being found in *appearance* as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Phil. 2: 7 But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being. (AMP)

The two natures of Jesus are revealed in this passage and it is important to know what the verses are saying and what they are not saying. This is a critical text for understanding how the dual nature operated.

The verses begin (in context) of telling us to have the same mind, or way of thinking, that Jesus did. It is virtually expressing that Jesus Christ should be our example in *humility*. The humility that Jesus attained was: ‘who, being in the form of God’ would lay down the *attributes of divinity* to take

the form of servant, the likeness of man, and take the appearance of a man.

1. The divine nature is that He, 'who, being in the form of God' was partaking of the *divine nature* as the eternal and only begotten Son of God. This agrees with John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God; with Col. 1:15 that Jesus was the image of the invisible God; and Heb 1:3, that Jesus was the express image of His person, and 1 Tim 3:16, that God was manifested in the flesh. He knew that He and His Father were One: John 10:30.
2. The human nature is that He was made in the likeness of man and He was found in the appearance of a man. He voluntarily assumed human nature, it was His own act and by His own consent. This is how He emptied Himself: He *divested Himself* of the honor, glories and attributes of heaven and of His former appearance, to clothe Himself with the rags and limitations of human nature.

Some assume that Jesus somehow altogether quit his divine nature to become man, but this overlooks the term 'who, being in the form of God'. Jesus is God, an essential part of the Trinity and Godhead. To believe that God as Jesus had to cease being or existing as His *essential nature* to become man is not necessary and it is not proper interpretation. If Jesus ceased being God in His 33 years (+ time in the womb), then the *trinity ceases to exist* for that measure of time! Imagine the headlines in heaven: 'The Day the Trinity Ceased'. It sounds crazy, but that is the theological dilemma posed by such interpretation.

When in **v7** it says that He ‘made Himself of no reputation’, it describes how this mystery took place. The word ‘*kenoo*’ (2758 in Strongs) (for the English word ‘reputation’) means literally, "to make empty, to make vain, void or neutralize." The essential idea is that of bringing to emptiness, vanity, or nothingness; and, hence, it is applied to a case where *one lays aside his rank and dignity*, and becomes in respect to that as nothing; that is, he assumes a more humble rank and station. This is the ‘mind’, ‘which was also in Christ Jesus.’

*It cannot mean that he literally divested himself of his divine nature and perfections, for that was impossible. It is conceivable that he might have, *laid aside for a time*, the *symbols* or the *manifestation of his glory*, or that the outward expressions of his majesty in heaven, including His divine attributes, might have been withdrawn. Yet this supposes no *change in the divine nature*, or in the *essential glory* of the divine perfections. The language before us fairly implies that he laid aside that which was expressive of his being divine - that glory which is involved in the phrase "*being* in the form of God" - and took upon himself another form and manifestation in the condition of a servant.*

Two Forms

One form was of God, which Jesus ‘being’ in that form meaning an eternal existence in that form.

The form of a man, which simply means while being in the form of God, He took the form of a man, temporarily.

- Jesus lived as a man, laying aside His divine power and fully trusted God to do through the Holy Spirit what God wanted Him to do. He did this to show how a man in right relationship to God (clean), filled with the Holy Spirit and completely dependent on God can live.

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

Jesus walked and lived as a man so that we would have an example to follow. We can be in right relationship with God through the cleansing of the blood of Jesus. We can be filled with the Holy Spirit, and through consecration we can become completely dependent on the Father just like Jesus was. Jesus Christ is perfect theology. He was and is the model Christian. More on this subject to follow.

A Warning From The Old Apostle

In his battle against encroaching Gnosticism, the aging John wrote:

1John 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2** By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, **3** and 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, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

2John 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

John stated categorically that anyone who does not accept that Jesus (His earthly name) Christ (His divine name) as having come in the *flesh* operates under the spirit of antichrist. Keep in mind that His name 'Jesus' and his title of 'Christ', links Him to every reference of *deity* in the Word of God. Of course history teaches that a man named Jesus lived 2000 years ago. But even in the days of John, there was error being propagated that Jesus in the flesh was not the Son of God, the Christ, the Messiah, the Holy One, but only a man: maybe before His life, maybe after His life, but not in the 'days of His flesh'.

To suppose that Jesus was only a man in His earthy ministry would be a supposition that comes from the spirit of antichrist. Jesus Christ: God in flesh, the Word made flesh, Immanuel – God with us, Son of God, Son of Man, Son of the Highest, The Holy One. To Him be all the glory, honor and praise!

4. Why Would God Become a Man? Jesus our High Priest

Now we want to look at why it was necessary for God to become a man. In examining this question, we want to introduce Jesus Christ the man as an effective *High Priest and Intercessor*. For God to be able to relate to man's weakness and temptations, Jesus became a man so that He would know from man's perspective what it is like to be tempted and what is required to be obedient to God.

Heb. 2:18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Heb. 4:15 For 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.

These two verses are power packed with truth that help us understand this: *God understands!* Since Jesus was tempted as a man, He did not call on His divinity to overcome His temptations, because then the temptation would have ceased from being a temptation! But as a man, He called upon the Holy Spirit to help him, and He received the strength to overcome *as a man*. (More on this in Chapter 6) Since He learned those things for Himself, He is now able to aid, or help us when we are tempted. Jesus, as our High Priest, can empathize with us in our weaknesses, for He was tempted in all the ways that we are tempted, yet

without sin. Therefore He provides help for us that comes from knowing exactly what we need to get through our weakness, and come through in victory!

When someone goes through a particular trauma or painful event in their life, they may not find as much comfort from someone who has not gone through what they are going through. If you haven't been where they are, you can't say you understand, because you don't. You may understand generally, but it doesn't bring the same comfort as someone who has experienced exactly what they have experienced. The help and aid that Jesus brings is custom fit for each one of us, because He was tempted in all points like we are: like one of us, yet without sin!

That is why the throne of grace is individually tailored for each one of us to find grace to help in our time of need!

Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Knowing that He is a faithful High Priest also qualifies Him as One who is ready to effectually *intercede* for us on a personal level, and to be complete in His understanding of humanity.

Heb. 7:23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. **24** But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. **25** Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Jesus Christ became a man so He would have first hand experience with what we experience as humans: joy, grief, acceptance, rejection, temptation, desire, etc. Since He has ‘been there, done that’, He is personally acquainted with how He needs to pray for us. Not only that, the scriptures teach that He is ‘able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them’. Imagine that! The Son of God, glorified and risen, now lives to intercede on our behalf! No wonder He is able to save us to the ‘uttermost’! He Himself is interceding for us, specifically and effectually.

Heb. 5:5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, *but it was He who said to Him:*

**“You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.”**

Heb. 5:6 As He also says in another place:

‘You are a priest forever

According to the order of Melchizedek”;

7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, 10 called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,…”

These scriptures teach that God Himself glorified Jesus to be High Priest! God declares that Jesus was His Son in the ‘days of His flesh’, while He was incarnate, on the earth in a fleshly body. Though He was the Son of God, it was through His humanity that he learned obedience to fully qualify Him to be High Priest!

Remember, for Jesus to accomplish all that He had to accomplish to provide a complete and finished work of atonement, it was necessary that He be fully God and fully man. Otherwise one could argue that Jesus wasn't really tempted as we are, because if He were fully God alone and not fully man as well, and knowing that God cannot be tempted with sin, there of course would be an apparent contradiction.

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

It should be quite obvious that Jesus was tempted as a man and not as God. God cannot be tempted, but man can, and Jesus was tempted in all things, just like we are, yet without sin! Praise to His Name! Jesus qualified in every way to become our High Priest and Intercessor.

5. Why Would God Become a Man? Man Lost It, Man Must Regain It

Man, specifically Adam, (the First Adam) gave away his dominion in the earth by disobedience. Man, specifically Jesus, (the Last Adam) had to regain it through obedience. Man lost it, man had to regain it.

Man Lost It:

Gen 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27** So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Gen. 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

Gen. 2:19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. **20** So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field.

Gen 3:4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **6** So when the woman saw [*‘enlightenment’ through agreement*] that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree

desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Gen. 3:21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Gen 3:23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. **24** So He drove out the man...

It is not my intention here to deal with the subject of the ‘fall’ of man through Adam. The point I do want to make here is that in the beginning, God gave man dominion over the earth. When man entered into agreement with the serpent, man relinquished the place that God had given him and gave it over to the ‘prince of the power of the air’:

Eph. 2:2 ... in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience...

‘Enlightenment’ saw the dawn of guilt, shame and condemnation: *fig leaves* were sewn together to cover their shame, yet God in His mercy prepared a sacrifice for them, and made *tunics of skin* to cloth them. Because of their disobedience to God, they were driven out of the place God had planned for them.

1Cor. 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since by man came death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

Rom. 5:18 Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. **19** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

These two scriptures reveal the plan of *justice* that God conceived. Man lost dominion and through sin, death entered creation. Man must regain it. It would not be just to reverse the choice of man in succumbing to the devil. For God to be just, dominion would have to be regained by man, not by God. Jesus had to *become a man* in the likeness of the first Adam to *retrieve* what the first Adam lost.

The devil gets it:

Luke 4:5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. **6** And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish."

Heb. 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil....

And again:

Eph. 2:2 ...in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience...

The devil had the *authority of all the kingdoms of the world and their glory*, or he could not have tempted Jesus with

them! He had the *power of death*, and was called the *prince of the power of the air*. All this through the *fall of man* from the place God had *created* him and *placed* him and *empowered* him.

Notice the serpent had no power of his own. He could only talk and talk and talk until someone agreed with him. In agreeing with him, man entered into disagreement with God. Even today, the only place the devil has in the life of a believer is the place we give him through agreeing with him. The devil can speak to us through our thoughts, and that is why it is so important to bring every thought captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ!

Jesus gets it back:

Heb. 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through [not just 'to' death] death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil...

Matt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 (You) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Since the wages of sin is death, Jesus earned the right to go *through* death, and not just 'to death', because of His *sinless life* (no wages to collect!). Therefore, having gone through death, He was resurrected by the power of God, and ascended to His former place of glory, enabling man to be restored to right relationship to God and enabling man to

be restored to the place of authority and dominion that the first Adam was given.

By going through death, and destroying **'him who had the power of death'**, Jesus received back the authority and dominion that man lost in the garden of Eden. The phenomenal thing is that it doesn't end there! God's original design was for man to have the dominion. Jesus, in the 'Great Commission', returns the authority to men who have become believers by sending them into the world to continue His works. This leads us into the next chapter.

6. Why Would God Became a Man Walking with God by Faith

Jesus became a man to show (as an example) how a man, in *right relationship* to God, *filled with the Holy Spirit* and completely *dependent on God*, can *live* and what that looks like!

As an Example:

1Pet. 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: **22** “*Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth*”; **23** who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; **24** who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed...

Peter tells us that we are to follow in the steps of Jesus. If Jesus lived as God, then we could not expect to walk in His steps, neither would the Word teach us that we should. Jesus lived and walked as a man to leave us an example of how to live and walk. Let’s look at three areas that Jesus walked as a man that we can have for an example to follow in His steps.

1. Jesus Lived in Right Relationship to God:

Heb. 4:15 For 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.

John 14:30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.

John 10:30 I and My Father are one.

Matt. 3:17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Jesus lived without sin, and therefore His relationship with His Father God was never broken. He was always one with His Father. He lived only to do the will of His Father, and He was found to be a faithful Son, who maintained a right relationship with His Father.

It is important to understand that through the atonement of Jesus Christ and the New Covenant that the atonement purchased, we also may now live in right relationship with our Father. Consider the following scriptures:

Rom. 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Rom. 3:21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..

Rom 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

By faith we become *justified* and *cleansed* from all unrighteousness. This places us in right relationship to God! We receive, by faith in the work of God through Jesus Christ, *right standing* with God. This is the very **righteousness of God** through faith in Jesus Christ! Righteousness is a *gift* received by faith. Therefore, perfect provision has been made for us to be in right relationship to God. Our part in coming into this relationship is believing and receiving the gift of God.

2. Jesus was Filled with the Holy Spirit and Power:

The Holy Spirit enabled Jesus to fulfill His ministry as the Spirit-anointed Messiah. In **Luke chapters 3 and 4**, there are five specific references to the Spirit:

- 1) The Spirit comes upon Jesus in bodily form like a dove **(3:22)**
- 2) He leads Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted **(4:1)**
- 3) following His victory over temptation, Jesus returns to Galilee in the power of the same Spirit **(4:14)**;
- 4) In the Nazareth synagogue Jesus reads the Messianic passage, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me..." **(4:18; ls. 61:1-2)** claiming their fulfillment in Him **(4:21)**. Then,
- 5) evidence for His spirit-filled ministry abounds **(4:21-44)**, and continues into the whole of His ministry of power and compassion.

Jesus lived a life that was filled with the Holy Spirit. His power, miracles and compassion came from his relationship with the Holy Spirit, and this was done as a man as an example to us of how to live and walk. We also can and should be filled with the Holy Spirit .

Consider these scriptures in light of this truth:

Gal. 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Eph. 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit...

1 Cor 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

Eph. 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man...

Eph. 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

When we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we receive the Holy Spirit. When we yield ourselves to Him and receive Him in greater measure, we become filled with the Spirit. This also occurs through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, yet ‘filling’ is not a ‘one time does it all experience’, rather it is a relational positioning to the Father that must remain current. With the filling of the Spirit, comes the yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit.

With filling comes *power*:

Luke 24:49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

Eph 1:18...that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly places...

Eph. 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us...

Just as Jesus was filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are to be filled and empowered by the same Holy Spirit. It is this source of power that enables us to live in right relationship to the Father and walk in the power of the Spirit in producing signs, wonders and miracles.

3. Jesus was Completely Dependent on God:

Jesus made it clear that what He did in His life and ministry was not **of** Himself, but it was **of** God. In everything He did, He was completely dependent on God.

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

Jesus does not expect it to be any different for us! Just as He could do nothing of Himself, He knows that we can't do anything of ourselves!

John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Our humanity and its weakness is no longer an excuse for powerlessness. Because of Jesus Christ walking as a man completely dependent on the Father, we have an example of how to live and walk, and the results should look like this:

Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Without Him we can do nothing but with Him and through Him we can do *all things*. Jesus made it clear that *He did nothing of Himself*. He was completely **dependent** upon the Father, and only did what He saw the Father do. Jesus also made it clear that we have need of being dependant on Him! *A life of dependency is a life of obedience.*

The life of Jesus was one lived with faith toward God, love of the Father, obedience to the Father's will and compassion for humanity. His life of power: miracles, signs and wonders, were symptomatic of that relationship. It will be the same for the Body of Christ as it walks in His footsteps.

2Cor. 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

7. Why Jesus was God Jesus the Mediator

Now we want to transition to our next subject matter: Why Jesus must be God. We have looked at the incarnation and how Jesus became God in the flesh, and we have looked at why Jesus had to come to earth as a man. Jesus was fully man and fully God, so now we look at Jesus as God.

For God's people to receive their inheritance of the New Covenant (or Testament, as in a will), the One who made the will had to die before it could come into effect. God is the One who made the will. For God to die, Jesus the Mediator, as man who was Fully God, died as God.

Consider these scriptures concerning the covenant (the Old Testament (or the Law) and the New Testament or Covenant):

Jer. 31:31 “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 32 not according to the covenant (old or original covenant) that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 But this *is* the covenant (the new one) that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God informs His people that the first covenant He made with Israel was to be replaced by a New Covenant. Because the people did not keep the

first covenant, God in His mercy decides to initiate a New one.

Heb. 8:6 But now He (Jesus) has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

This verse tells us that Jesus is to be the mediator of the New Covenant, which is one that is established on better promises. God views the New Covenant as being far superior to the first one.

Heb. 8:13 In that He says, “A new covenant,” He has made the first (the Law) obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

The establishing of a New Covenant automatically renders the first one obsolete. God never intended for the two covenants to operate together. The new one completely replaces the old one.

The role of Jesus the Mediator was to represent God in death:

Heb. 1:3 ...who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person...

Col. 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man. The scriptures declare that Jesus was the ‘express image of God’, and the ‘image of the invisible God’. Jesus was on earth as God in

form of a man. It was His responsibility to represent God in a form that could *die*.

Heb 9:15 And for this reason He (Jesus) is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. **16** For where there *is* a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. **17** For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. **18** Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. (Symbolizing death)

This is a most powerful narrative on why Jesus had to be God in the form of a man. Only then could it be possible for *God to die*. God's desire was to release a New Covenant on the earth for mankind, yet this covenant or testament could only be implemented or brought into 'force' upon the death of the **testator: God!**

Jesus becomes the mediator of the New Covenant by dying 'for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant.' Since a testament is 'in force after men are dead', by the shedding of His blood, Jesus dies as God, in His stead. What an awesome mystery and solution to an eternal dilemma!

Jesus knowing His role of mediator, **in which He would die as God**, gave His life to invoke the New Covenant and bring it into 'force'. Knowing it would require His blood He said this:

Matt. 26:28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

John 6:53 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.

Because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, those who receive Him can now receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. Notice it is an *eternal* inheritance, not a temporal one. Because of the death of Jesus as our mediator, we have ‘obtained an inheritance’ that comes from God. That inheritance is because of the New Testament (or New Will) that Jesus secured for us as the mediator. This is because an *eternal price* was paid to pay the *eternal wages of sin* which was death. More on this in the next chapter. Consider this:

Eph. 1:11 In Him (Jesus Christ) also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, **12** that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

8. Why Jesus was God 'Divine Blood'

In this chapter we want to consider the price that needed to be paid for sin. The Old Covenant had a system of sacrifices and ordinances that covered the participants from sin, but which never actually cleansed them from sin. It was similar to an outward washing of the hands without a cleansing of the heart. The atonement provided in the New Covenant pays an eternal price and does an eternal and internal work. It cleanses the 'hands' and the 'heart'.

A quick review of scripture reveals the devastation of the sin of Adam:

Gen. 2:17 ...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Rom. 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rev. 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

It is not possible that a finite being can atone for an infinite penalty. An eternal penalty demands an eternal sacrifice. Only a *divine sacrifice* could bear the *weight of the wrath of God*. Because of strict covenantal justice, Christ's

divinity was necessary to add *infinite value* to his work of obedience and sacrifice. No finite being could pay such a price. Christ's divinity was necessary to '*purchase*' His people. The death of a mortal man could not pay that price. Jesus died as God to pay the price of redemption.

Heb 9:26 ...but now, once at the end of the ages, He (Jesus) has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

This scripture reveals that God considers the crucifixion of Jesus as the 'end of the ages' or as the Amplified version says, 'the consummation and close of the ages.' That is a very powerful statement and understandably so when you understand the consequences and ramifications of his sacrifice.

The sacrifice of Jesus provides and atoning sacrifice (propitiation) that makes God just in His forgiveness of sins, and makes the forgiven one justified (forgiven and made clean from the sin) before God.

Rom. 3:25 ...whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

The justice of God had to be intact in the forgiveness of sins. The wages of sin was death, and the devil claimed as his those who had sinned and were born into sin. To cancel their penalty would violate God's justice. To be just, there needed to be a sacrifice that would satisfy the justice of

God and allow God to justify, or release from the penalty of death, those who would receive the sacrifice.

For the justice of God to be satisfied, the sacrifice could not be the death of a finite being. It would need to be the death of a divine being. The blood that would need to be shed could not be the blood of a finite being, but the blood of a divine being. When Jesus shed His blood, it was the blood of God, and therefore could pay the infinite price and obtain eternal redemption.

Heb. 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Note that Jesus did not obtain eternal redemption for Himself. He had nothing to saved from. **V15** makes it clear that the redemption was for ‘those who are called to receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.’

Heb. 9:15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Matt. 26:28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Heb 9:14 ...how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

1Pet. 1:18-19 ...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Heb. 10:29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God (Jesus in the flesh) underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing (by not believing in the sufficiency and efficacy of the blood) and insulted the Spirit of grace (by demanding obedience and works as a source of salvation)?

The blood of Jesus was divine blood for the following reasons:

1. His blood had to be incorruptible to make the transition from earth to the Heavenly Tabernacle.
2. The church of God was purchased with 'His own blood'.
3. It was the blood of the New Covenant (death of the testator).
4. Only divine blood can cleanse a conscience (heart) from dead works.
5. We cannot be redeemed with corruptible things.
6. It was not a 'common thing' (finite, ordinary, unclean).

From these scriptures, we see that the blood that Jesus shed was divine blood. Jesus had to be God for His blood to be divine. Praise God for this ‘mystery of godliness’!

9. Why Jesus was God 'Before Abraham was, I AM'

Jesus Christ claimed to be God. Uninformed critics say that Jesus never made that claim, however, it was that claim that moved the Jews to crucify Him! The scriptures are also clear that He was God when He was incarnate, or in the flesh and blood of a human.

One of these claims of Jesus that He was God is found in his discussion with the Pharisees:

John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad.”
57 Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”
58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”
59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

The phrase ‘I AM’ is used by Jesus 41 times in the Gospel of John. Each time "I Am" appears, you can properly substitute "I have timeless being" or "I have timeless being as..." for "I Am."

God makes this statement:

Ex. 3:14 And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

When Jesus called Himself ‘I AM’, He was identifying Himself as God. To deny this understanding is to deny the reasons the Jews crucified Him.

Another way that Jesus claimed to be God was in His statement that He and the Father were one. This will be covered more fully in chapter 11, but consider this:

John 10:29-33 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. **30** I and My Father are one.” **31** Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. **32** Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?” **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.”

The one thing the Jews were correct in finding Jesus ‘guilty’ of was this: ‘being a Man’, *He made Himself God.* The Jews recognized His claim, and called Him out on it. It was one of the reasons they hated Him so. To say such a thing was blasphemy, and in the end, it was their motivation for having Him crucified! Jesus’ own claim that He was God is evidence enough!

As God’s Son, and as His exact image, the scripture is clear that in the days of His incarnation (when he lived in human form), he continued His heavenly relationship as Son of God, but now as a man.

Heb. 5:5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’ **6** As He also says in another place: ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek’; **7** who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, **8** though He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. **9** And having been perfected, He became the author of

eternal salvation to all who obey Him, **10** called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,” ...

God declares Jesus to be His Son ‘in the days of His flesh’. In verse 9 it speaks of Jesus ‘learning obedience’ and ‘being perfected’. As discussed in Chapter 1, and in view of the clear teaching that Christ is Creator and *not a creature*, the Arian misinterpretations (Embraced by the Mormons and Jehovah’s Witness) of phrases like these attempt to place Jesus in the position of needing to save Himself before He could become God. This opens up other lines of misinterpretation that undermine the *person and work* of Jesus Christ by *humanizing, minimizing and devaluing* His life and work.

Though He was the Son of God, it was through His humanity that he learned obedience to fully qualify Him to be High Priest!

Thus, Jesus was God in the flesh, and as a further confirmation to his Godhood, the scripture reveals that even in the resurrection, God declared Him to be the ‘Son of God’:

Rom. 1:3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, **4** and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

The resurrection is the Father’s way of proving and confirming that Jesus was God.

God in the Flesh

Other scriptures point out that Jesus was God in the flesh. It is important to know that He was God before His incarnation (uncreated), during His incarnation (in flesh), and after the resurrection.

Rom. 9:5 ... and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus received this title and description from Thomas, declaring Him to be God, without correction or denial.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 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.

The Word, Who was in the beginning (uncreated), was with God and was God, and became flesh so that He could dwell among us, and His glory that was observed was the glory of the only begotten of the Father. (He was begotten as the incarnate Son, not as the preexistent Son as the Arian doctrine teaches.)

Matt. 1:23 *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,”* which is translated, “God with us.” (Is 7:14)

Here, scripture translates scripture. Immanuel, the name given for Jesus, is translated ‘God with us’. That is to say, God, manifest in flesh.

Is. 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

We see that the child to be born (in the flesh, Jesus) had names assigned to Him from God, of: Wonderful Counselor, ***Mighty God***, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace! There is no denying that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.

John 5:21 For 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, **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.

This verse reveals that Jesus ‘gives life to whom He will’, just as the Father gives life. Only God can give life! This is why ‘all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father.’

Heb. 1:7 And of the angels He says: *“Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.”* **8** But to the Son He says: *“Your throne, **O God**, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.* (Psalm 45:6)

1Tim. 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh...

Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily...

Never underestimate the importance of acknowledging that Jesus was fully man and fully God. If either one is omitted or compromised, then the plan of God for salvation is modified. Son of man, Son of God: Jesus Christ.

10. Why Jesus was God Jesus 'The Veil'

Jesus Christ has many names, attributes and titles. One such title and attribute of Jesus is that He is also known as 'The Veil.' This chapter will build a foundation that will help illuminate how Jesus became the Veil, and the power behind it.

Imagine if you will, a church building that is the most impressive structure you have ever seen. It was designed by a master architect and built by craftsmen. Its beauty is beyond comparison and its cost is unfathomable. It's as if the plans came from heaven itself, and angels the workmen. And for all this, imagine that it stood empty, unvisited and unused. Hebrews chapter 9 describes such a structure:

Heb. 9:6 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. **7** But into the second part the high priest *went* alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; **8** the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle (First covenant, "The Law") was still standing.

Heb. 9:11 But Christ came *as High Priest* of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. **12** Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Heb. 9:23 Therefore *it was* necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. **24** For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are

copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us...

These scriptures reveal that the tabernacle that was designed by God, revealed to Moses and built by craftsmen was only a copy (so to speak) of the REAL tabernacle that existed in heaven. Verse **8** says that as long as the ‘first tabernacle’ was operational, then ‘the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest.’ As long as the Law was in operation, that being the First Covenant and the ceremonies and ritual of the Law, the REAL tabernacle, and the REAL Holiest of All could not function.

Verse **11** says that Jesus Christ became the High Priest. When that happened, the REAL tabernacle, that had been copied on earth, ‘the greater and more perfect tabernacle’, *became functional in the heavens for the first time!*

Verse **23** says that to get beyond the copy and into the REAL tabernacle, there had to be ‘better sacrifices’ than what was provided for the ‘copy’. Jesus Christ did not operate His service as High Priest in a natural building made with man’s hands, but in the true tabernacle which is in ‘heaven itself’, appearing ‘in the presence of God for us’!

Now notice this: Verse **11** says that Jesus Christ became the High Priest. Verse **12**: ‘Not with the blood of goats and calves, but *with His own blood* He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.’

Jesus Christ was the ‘better sacrifice’ mentioned in verse **23**.

Heb. 9:26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

As *the* sacrifice, Jesus shed *His* blood. Then the most phenomenal transition took place, one that *parallels the incarnation!!* Jesus went from being the *sacrifice* that was slain, to the *High Priest* of Heaven. The moment this transition and transformation took place, the Heavenly (REAL) tabernacle was suddenly open for business. Now, in verse **12**, we see Jesus the High Priest carrying HIS OWN BLOOD into the Holiest of All. The blood that He shed as the sacrifice, He carried into the Holiest of All as the High Priest.

Following on the Hebrews, chapter 10, we read:

Heb 10:4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

5 Therefore, when *He came into the world, He said:*

“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,

But a body You have prepared for Me.

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin,

You had no pleasure.

7 Then I said, “Behold, I have come—

In the volume of the book it is written of Me—

To do Your will, O God.”

8 Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin, You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the law), **9** then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second. **10** By that will we have been **sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...

This verse explains that the sacrifice of bulls and goats was only a temporary provision for sin. The body of Jesus, which was to be offered as the authentic, eternal and perfect sacrifice, is what God was providing for the final solution to the sin problem. Jesus was aware of this assignment and came willingly ‘to do Your will, O God’. When it says that ‘He takes away the first that He may establish the second’, it is referring to taking away the first system of sacrifice, the Law, ‘that He may establish the second’, which is the New Covenant.

It is by the will of Jesus to do the will of God in making this provision that makes us ‘**sanctified** through the *offering of the body* of Jesus Christ **once for all...**’ It is the body of Jesus that became the ‘better sacrifice’.

It is important to note here, that no one took the life of Jesus from Him, rather, He offered it up to God, to do the will of His Father. This is understood by what Jesus is recorded as saying in the Gospel of John:

John 10:17 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. **18** No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

So, continuing with this thought, look at **Hebrews 10:19-22:**

Heb. 10:19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that

is, His flesh, 21 and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Though much could be said about this verse, notice what it says His flesh (or body) was: ***The Veil!*** His body is now to be the Veil that gives us access with boldness into the Holiest of All, a place formerly reserved for the High Priest, and then only once a year!

Let's look at the significance of the veil in the copy of the Heavenly Tabernacle, the tabernacle of Moses:

Ex. 30:6 And you shall put it before the veil that *is* before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that *is* over the Testimony, where I will meet with you.

The ark of the Testimony (which represents the presence of God) was in the Holiest of All. It was the veil that separated the Holiest of All from the Holy Place, which was before the mercy seat that is over the Testimony, and that is where God said: 'I will meet with you'.

About this veil it is written:

Ex. 36:35 And he made a veil of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen; it was worked with an artistic design of cherubim.

Remember the cherubim were also at the two ends of the mercy seat covering the ark:

Ex. 25:18 And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 Make one cherub at one end, and the

other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. **20** And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.

Notice also the use of cherubim in guarding the garden of Eden after Adam and Eve were expelled:

Gen. 3:24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

We can see that the cherubim on the veil and the cherubim covering the mercy seat were symbolically there to guard and keep the Holiest of All, a holy and restrictive place. Now notice what happens when Jesus is crucified, and his body is offered up: the True Veil is revealed, the copy of the heavenly one is no longer needed and:

Mark 15:38 Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

God supernaturally tore the veil of the temple in two, because it was no longer needed. Jesus Christ became the REAL veil, and thus gives us entrance into the presence of God!

John 10:7 Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

Now follow this thought to its conclusion: The cherubim were there to protect the holiness of God from being defiled by sin. Jesus offers up His body for us and pays for our sin.

Col. 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled **22** in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

Now, because of the sacrifice of Jesus, we have been ‘reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you *holy*, and *blameless*, and *above reproach in His sight*...

Praise God! The cherubim are no longer needed, because the perfect sacrifice was accepted, and it is that sacrifice that makes us: HOLY, BLAMELESS and ABOVE REPROACH IN HIS SIGHT!

That is why we may now have boldness to enter into the very presence of God!

Heb. 10:19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus...

There is also twenty-six references to Jesus being ‘The Lamb’ in the Book of Revelation, which is the ‘Revelation of Jesus Christ’!

Rev. 5:12 saying with a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

To receive power and riches and wisdom,

And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

Jesus had to have been God to become the Veil that would make man holy, blameless and above reproach in His sight! No mere mortal could ever qualify for that task. Jesus, in His flesh, did the will of His father to let His flesh become that Veil. Worthy is the Lamb forever!

11. Why Jesus was God Jesus and the Father are One

As we learned in Chapter 3, “How the Dual Nature Operated”, Jesus in ‘The Kenosis’ (the laying aside of His divine attributes) maintained His place in the Godhead/Trinity. Jesus did not cease being God when He was in human form, rather He imposed the limitations of a human upon Himself while He was in the form of a man.

His oneness with God is not just a symbolic platitude. He was one with the Father in the heavens before incarnation, one with the Father while He was in the form of a man, and He is forever one with the Father for eternity. This oneness is the very evidence of Jesus being God while He was in human form.

John 10:29-33 My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father’s hand. **30** I and My Father are one.” **31** Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. **32** Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?” **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.”

You can see the reaction of the Jews to this statement: they ‘took up stones again to stone Him’. Jesus then challenged their actions, and they made it clear why they did it: ‘but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.’

Oneness with the Father was taken even further by Jesus with His disciples in this intercourse:

John 14:5-9 Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” **6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the

life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” 8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Jesus literally says that when you know Him, you know the Father! Even more, Jesus said that ‘when you have seen Me, you have seen the Father’. Looking at Jesus was the same as beholding the Father! He even sounded indignant that Philip would ask to be shown the Father when Jesus had been with them the whole time!

To further illustrate this point, I refer to the Book of Hebrews:

Heb. 1:1-3 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

In this reference to Jesus, the scripture reveals that the Son has been appointed heir of all things, and that the worlds were made through Him. It declares that Jesus was the brightness of His glory, the *express image* of His person, He upholds all things by the word of His power, purged our sins, and sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high! WOW! That is an incredible description of oneness with

God, and it is God who ascribes to Jesus the same honor as Himself!

This scripture also confirms what Jesus said to Philip when it says that Jesus was the express image of the person of God. When you saw Jesus, you saw the Father.

The apostle Paul wrote the same thing to the Colossians:

Col. 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Jesus incarnate (in human form) was the visible image of the invisible God. More of His God attributes are listed here as well: ‘by Him all things were created’; ‘All things were created through Him and for Him.’; ‘He is before all things and in Him all things consist.’ There can be no doubt that Jesus was the Son of Man and Son of God: Fully man and fully God.

Finally, Jesus in His closing discourse with His disciples before His crucifixion, reveals His heart in this prayer:

John 17:20-23 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; **21** that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. **22** And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one. **23** I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that

the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

His prayer for oneness is based on the model of His relationship with His Father. Jesus prayed that they would be one just as He and His Father were one. As we are one with each other, we are one with Jesus and God. The purpose for this is ‘that the world may believe that You sent Me.’ Oneness with God and each other is a sign to the world that God sent Jesus, and that the love that God had for Jesus, He has for us too!

Oneness with the Father wasn’t something reserved for Jesus alone! It is His desire that we would know this oneness as well. Chapter 6 was about our walking by faith and being in the same relationship with God that Jesus was. This is how it is possible. We are to be *one with the Father through Jesus Christ.*

12. A 'Mystery Among the Gentiles'

Christ in You

Now that we have examined Jesus, as the Son of Man and Son of God, I want to finish this study with a look at what this means for us personally. Everything, from Jesus obtaining eternal salvation for us to Jesus regaining what was lost in the garden, was accomplished so that *something could happen in us*. Knowledge without an encounter with God becomes at best theory. Jesus accomplished so many things, yet in the end He said this:

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send *Him* to you.

Jesus knew that He had to depart and finish the work that had been set before Him. He also knew, that unless He departed, the Holy Spirit could not come. If Jesus would have remained forever in His human form, we would have a God to worship and follow, but it would be a limited experience. It would always be ‘God on the outside’ like every other religion in the world.

Jesus says He will send the ‘Helper’. Notice the ‘Helper’ is a ‘Him’, part of the Trinity of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

John 15:26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

Here the ‘Helper’ is identified as ‘the Spirit of truth’, or the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is actually the ‘Spirit of His Son’, Jesus, sent to live in our lives.

Gal. 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

The Spirit of His Son, the Holy Spirit, has been sent so that God would live *in* us. That way, God is not afar off, but He is close, and our bodies become the temple of God!

1Cor. 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

When the Holy Spirit lives in us, we have all the help, empowerment, encouragement, insight, revelation, understanding, discernment, hope, faith, fruit, spiritual gifts, relationship with God, and everything else we need, *right inside of us!*

Paul writing to the Colossians said:

Col. 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Christ in you is the hope of glory! It is a mystery in deed, but it is the good news of the gospel! Christ in us makes us like Jesus as we grow into his likeness. It is God’s plan that we become conformed to the image of the Son of God, Jesus Christ:

Rom. 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

He didn't give this task to mere mortal humans, but to His very own children, those who carry His nature in them:

2Pet. 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, **3** as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, **4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that *is* in the world through lust.

This is amazing! Because of Christ in us, we have 'all things that pertain to life and godliness'. We also have incredible promises that allow us to 'be partakers of the divine nature'! Therefore we are fully equipped to serve and obey God, move forward in the call of God to be 'conformed to the image of His Son' and destroy the works of the devil.

It is not about us personally, or our own power or our own might.

Zech. 4:6 So he answered and said to me:

“This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:

'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'

Says the LORD of hosts.

Living by faith means understanding that the story that God is writing in your life is a God story, not a 'you' story, although you are the one He is writing it through.

2Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be **of God and not of us**.

We are the ‘earthen vessel’ and the power is ‘of God and not of us’. But because we can yield our life to Christ in us, we find the scripture declares:

Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

I can do all things through Christ because He lives IN me and can live through me:

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

With the power of Christ living in me, the ‘*all things*’ that I can do through Christ blows the ceiling off of my experience! And it is not based on my strength or power, but on believing my God!

Mark 9:23 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

Mark 10:27 But Jesus looked at them and said, “With men *it is* impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.”

Jesus said that the works He did was the Father IN HIM doing the work:

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. **11** Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. **12** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Since the scripture declares that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, I need to take serious my calling and destiny to do the works of God. Just as Jesus relied on the Father who dwelled in Him to do the works, we are to do the same. We are to rely on the Father who dwells in us through the Holy Spirit, to do the works!

When Mark 9:23 says that all things are possible to him who believes, it does not mean that we are believing that we can do it, but that God in us can, That is actually much easier to believe! Can God do all things?? Of course! Well guess what? He lives in you and can do those works through you as you believe Him to do it. As we quoted earlier, so *the excellence will be of God and not of us!*

1John 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Christ in you is greater than he who is in the world. That is why Jesus said that for those who believe, the works that HE did, they would do also, and even greater. Why? Because He went to His Father, and the Holy Spirit, the Helper, the Comforter, the Spirit of the Son, the Spirit of God could come live in us.

God has covered every angle for us to walk with Him in union. What an awesome plan He conceived and executed for us to live in power and victory! May we appropriate every provision provided in the Great Atonement and use those provisions to fulfill God's plan for our life.