

Theology: What the Bible says about the things that matter most

Message #6 (7/21/13): Jesus Christ (Who is Jesus Christ?)

Key Scriptures: John 1:1, 14; John 20:28; Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:5-7; Titus 2:13; 1 John 1:1-4; Hebrews 2:16-18; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Timothy 2:5

Questions:

1. What from Sunday's sermon was most helpful or insightful?
2. How should Jesus' deity influence the way you think about worshiping and obeying him?
3. How does the deity of Christ that is clearly taught in the Bible help to explain why he said he was the only way to God? If he was only a great moral teacher how are we to understand his claims to be God?
4. How does his full humanity increase your confidence in him as your representative in his life, death, and resurrection?
5. How can a clearer understanding of Jesus' humanity help you face temptations? How can it help you to pray? What are the most difficult situations in your life right now? Can you think of any similar situations that Jesus might have faced? Does that encourage you to pray confidently to him?
6. How does the fact that God became a man enhance your appreciation for humanity and physical reality?
7. Do you think you have neglected the implications of Christ's deity or humanity (see page 2 on the other side)? How does a biblical understanding of the person of Christ affect how you think about portrayals of Christ in contemporary culture?
8. Can you describe (and perhaps identify with) what the disciples must have felt as they came to a growing realization of who Jesus actually was? Do you think Jesus is the one person you would be able to trust with your life for all eternity? Will you be happy to join with thousands of others in worshiping around his throne in heaven? Do you delight in worshiping him now?
9. Use Colossians 1:19-20 as a prayer focus for thanking God for the God-Man Jesus.

Colossians 1:19–20 (ESV)

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Sermon Details/Specifics:

Why was it necessary for Jesus to be fully divine?

“...it is crucially important to insist on the full deity of Christ as well, not only because it is clearly taught in Scripture, but also because (1) only someone who is infinite God could bear the full penalty for all the sins of all those who would believe in him —any finite creature would have been incapable of bearing that penalty; (2) salvation is from the Lord (Jonah 2:9 NASB), and the whole message of Scripture is designed to show that no human being, no creature, could ever save man—only God himself could; and (3) only someone who was truly and fully God could be the one mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5), both to bring us back to God and also to reveal God most fully to us (John 14:9).¹”

Why was it necessary for Jesus to be fully human²?

1. The Bible teaches it (1 John 4:2-3 show it is a heresy to deny his humanity).
2. Jesus’s humanity enables his representative obedience (Romans 5:18-19).
3. Because of Jesus’s humanity, he can truly be a substitutionary sacrifice (Hebrews 2:17).
4. Jesus’s humanity makes him the only effective mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5).
5. Jesus’s humanity enabled him to become a sympathetic high priest (Hebrews 4:15-16; Hebrews 2:18).

¹ Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2004), 553.

² From Erik Thoennes, *Life’s Biggest Questions*.