

**Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics**

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

The Heights Church March 24, 2019

Jesus the God-man - Council of Chalcedon A.D. 451 (Review)

The council of Chalcedon taught the church how to talk about the two natures of Christ without falling into errors.

1. One nature of Christ is sometimes seen doing things in which the other nature does not share.
2. Anything either nature does is done by the person of Christ.
3. In the incarnation Christ gave up the glory of divine life but not the possession of divine powers.
4. In the incarnation Christ gained human attributes without giving up divine attributes.

Jesus the God-man – Heresy; Heretic; Apostasy; Blasphemy

- **Heresy** is any belief or theory that is strongly at variance with established beliefs or customs, in particular the accepted beliefs of a church or religious organization.
- A **heretic** is a proponent of such claims or beliefs.
- Heresy is distinct from both **apostasy**, which is the explicit renunciation of one's religion, principles or cause, and **blasphemy**, which is an impious utterance or action concerning God or sacred things.

Jesus the God-man – Heresy #1 Jesus was not fully human

Name/Founder	Heresy	Comments
<p>Apollinarianism: Apollinaris (310 – 390); bishop of Laodicea in Syria and an opponent of the Arians</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The person of Christ had a human body but not a human mind or spirit.• Christ's mind and spirit were from the divine nature of the Son of God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• declared a heresy in 381 at the Council of Constantinople• Many modern Christians are unwittingly like Apollinarians thinking that Jesus lived in a human body but mainly acted from his divine nature.
<p>Docetism: derived from a Greek word meaning "to seem;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• arose over meaning, of "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus, only seemed to be human, and his human form was an illusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Declared a heresy by the Council of Nicaea in 325

Jesus the God-man – Heresy #2 Jesus was not fully God

Name/Founder	Heresy	Comments
<p>Ebionism: arose in the second century from the Judaizers and taught the necessity of keeping the Jewish law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Derived from a Hebrew word meaning "the poor" or "poor ones"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus was the Son of God only by virtue of His being "adopted" by God;• Jesus was a descendant of David, a wise and gifted person, on the level of Solomon, but not as great as Moses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Declared a heresy by the "early church Fathers.• Most modern unbelievers are essentially Ebionites believing Jesus was a wise and good man but not God.
<p>Arianism: Arius (AD 256–336), a Christian leader in Alexandria, Egypt.</p>	<p>the Son of God did not always exist but was begotten in time by God the Father, a creature distinct from the Father and therefore subordinate to him.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jehovah Witnesses are modern day Arians.• The Council of Nicaea in 325, deemed Arianism to be a heresy.

Jesus the God-man – Heresy #3 Jesus did not have two natures.

Name/Founder	Heresy	Comments
<p>Nestorianism: Nestorius (386–450), was the Patriarch of Constantinople from 428 to 431.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christ had two loosely united natures, divine and human.• The two natures do not exist in one person but Christ is a human person and a divine person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rejected as heretical at the Council of Ephesus in 431, and the Council of Chalcedon in 451, which led to churches supporting Nestorius' teaching separating from the rest of Christianity.
<p>Eutychianism: Eutyches of Constantinople (c. 380 – c. 456).</p>	<p>Christ's divinity consumed his humanity as the ocean consumes a drop of vinegar creating a third new nature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eutyches was accused of heresy in 448, leading to his excommunication. The Council of Chalcedon in 451, corrected his false ideas.

Jesus the God-man - Monophysitism

- "Monophysites" were Christians in the Eastern Roman Empire who rejected the Council of Chalcedon in 451 and believed Jesus had one nature; either divine (Apollinarianism) or a synthesis of human and divine (Eutychianism).
- After the Council of Chalcedon, the monophysite controversy (together with institutional, political, and growing nationalistic factors) led to a schism between the Oriental Orthodox churches and the Eastern Orthodox churches.
- The vast majority of Christians are "Chalcedonian" (Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and traditional Protestants that accept the first four Ecumenical Councils). These churches have always considered monophysitism to be heretical.

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Virgin Birth

- Salvation never comes about by human effort but is always by the work of God.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18)

"Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:20)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Virgin Birth

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God. (Luke 1:35)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:4 – 5)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Virgin Birth

- The virgin birth helps us understand how Jesus can be fully man and fully God: human mother and God (Holy Spirit) for his Father
- The virgin birth makes it possible for Jesus to be truly human but without sin namely *holy* (Luke 1:35)
 1. This was the method God used so that Jesus was not fully descended from Adam.

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Virgin Birth

2. Jesus did not inherit original sin from Mary because somehow the transmission of original sin from Mary to Jesus was prevented by the Holy Spirit. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy. (Luke 1:35)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Virgin Birth

- Roman Catholicism teaches that Mary did not have a sin nature. Their doctrine of the *Immaculate Conception* was declared by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854 and states, “The Most Holy Virgin Mary was, in the first moment of her conception...in view of the merits of Christ...preserved free from all stain of original sin.
- According to Ludwig Ott in his book *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*, “in consequence of a special Privilege of Grace from God, Mary was free from every personal sin during her whole life,” page 203

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Virgin Birth

- Ott admits the *Immaculate Conception* is not explicitly revealed in Scripture, though he thinks it is implicit in Luke 1:28. (Of course decrees of Pope's have the authority of Scripture.)
- Mary is honored in the NT And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O ***favored one*** (*charitoō* in Greek), the Lord is with you!" (Luke 1:28) but *charitoō* is used in Ephesians 1:6 to refer to all of the elect. to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has ***blessed us*** (*charitoō*) in the Beloved.

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Weakness and Limitations

- Jesus had a body like ours before his resurrection.
 - He was born. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, (Luke 2:7)
 - He grew to be an adult. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. (Luke 2:40)
 - He got tired. Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey (John 4:6)
 - He got thirsty. "I thirst." (John 19:28)
 - He got hungry. he was hungry (Matthew 4:2)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Weakness and Limitations

- He died. he breathed his last. (Luke 23:46)
- When Jesus ascended into heaven there was continuity between his resurrected human body on earth and his continuing existence in that body in heaven. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father." (John 16:28)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Weakness and Limitations

- Jesus had a human mind. And Jesus **increased in wisdom** and in stature and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:52)
 - We might think that as a boy of 12 his wisdom came from the divine nature. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. (Luke 2:47) **But his increase in wisdom is in parallel with his physical growth. Divine wisdom would not increase.**

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Weakness and Limitations

- The Holy Spirit at work in the sinless Jesus is how he grew in knowledge and wisdom. There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah 11:1-2)
- There were things he didn't know. "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (Mark 13:32)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Weakness and Limitations

- **Jesus had a human soul.** "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." (Matthew 26:38) "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'?" (John 12:27)
- **Jesus had human emotions.** When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. (Matthew 8:10);

Jesus wept. (John 11:35)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Weakness and Limitations

- People saw him as a man and not as God. and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "**Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?** Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his **mother called Mary?** And are not his **brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?** And are not all his sisters with us? **Where then did this man get all these things?**" (Matthew 13:53-56)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Weakness and Limitations

- Since Jesus looked to those who knew him best as a man, were his wisdom and mighty works a manifestation of his divine nature or his human nature empowered by the Holy Spirit? And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw **the Spirit of God** descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; (Matthew 3:16)
 - And Jesus returned in the **power of the Spirit** to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. (Luke 4:14)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Weakness and Limitations

- Suppose Jesus did his work on earth through his divine nature. How then could he say? "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (John 14:12)
- So to have a truly human nature Jesus needed to be indwelt with the Holy Spirit even though the Second Person of the Trinity also had a divine nature.