

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

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

The Heights Church April 14, 2019

Jesus the God-man – Why was Jesus' Deity Necessary?

1. Only someone who is an infinite being (God) could bear the full penalty of all of the elect's sin. A finite human nature could not do this.
2. Salvation is from the Lord (Jonah 2:9)
3. Only a being (God) who is fully God and fully human could be the mediator between God and humans.
 - Fully reveal God to us: Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" (John 14:9)
 - Bring us back to God: For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (1 Timothy 2:5)

Jesus the God-man – His Divinity According to Scripture

- The Bible is very clear that Jesus had a fully divine nature.

In the **beginning** was the **Word** (*Logos*), and the **Word** (*Logos*) was **with** God (*Theos*), and the Word (*Logos*) **was** God (*Theos*). He was in the beginning with God (*Theos*). (John 1:1-2)

- In Greek philosophy the **Logos** was reason or logic, an abstract force that brought order to the universe. The **Logos** was one of many intermediate powers between God and the universe.
- In John's Gospel **Logos** is the eternal, divine nature of the person of Christ.
- **Theos** is the usual word used in the NT for God the Father.

Jesus the God-man – His Divinity According to Scripture

- No one has ever seen God (*Theos*); the only God (*Theos*), who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (John 1:18)
- Thomas answered him, "My Lord (*Kyrios*) and my God!" (*Theos*) (John 20:28)
- *Kyrios* is used 740 times in the NT usually referring to Jesus. There are many times, however, that *kyrios* is equivalent to the divine name Yahweh (Hebrew) /Jehovah (Latin). In the Septuagint (Greek OT) *kyrios* is used 6814 times to translate the name of the Lord.

Jesus the God-man – His Divinity According to Scripture

- To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God (*Theos*) over all, blessed forever. Amen.
(Romans 9:5)
- He is the image of the invisible God, (*Theos*) the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:15 - 17)

Jesus the God-man – His Divinity According to Scripture

- For the grace of God (*Theos*) has appeared, bringing salvation for **all people***, training **us *** to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for **our *** blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of **our great God (*Theos*) and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us * to redeem us *** from all lawlessness and to purify for himself **a people *** for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11 -14)

*Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, **for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth**, which accords with godliness, (Titus 1:1)

Jesus the God-man – His Divinity According to Scripture

but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God (*Theos*) and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (Hebrews 1:2 – 3)

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, (*Theos*) is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. (Hebrews 1:8)

Jesus the God-man – His Divinity According to Scripture

- Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God (*Theos*) and Savior Jesus Christ: (2 Peter 1:1)

Jesus the God-man – His Divinity: People Perceived He was Divine.

- And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?" (Matthew 8:26 – 27)
- And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. (Matthew 14:19)

Jesus the God-man – His Divinity: People Perceived He was Divine.

- Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (John 1:48 – 49) **recognized divinity and believes**
- This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and **manifested his glory**. And his disciples believed in him. (John 2:11)

Jesus the **God-man** – His Divinity: People Perceived He was Divine.

- But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. (John 6:64 – 66)

knows who the elect are

Jesus the **God-man** – His Divinity: People Perceived He was Divine.

- So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. (John 8:57 – 59) **Jews recognize a claim of divinity**

Jesus the **God-man** – His Divinity: Jesus Reinterprets the Law

- OT prophets would say “Thus says the LORD” but Jesus sometimes says, “But I say to you”
 1. **But I say to you** that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matthew 5:22)
 2. **But I say to you** that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:28)
 3. **But I say to you** that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. (Matthew 5:32)

Jesus the **God-man** – His Divinity: Jesus Reinterprets the Law

4. **But I say to you**, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. (Matthew 5:34 – 35)
5. **But I say to you**, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. (Matthew 5:39)
6. **But I say to you**, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:44)

Jesus the **God-man** – Jesus Proclaims His Divinity:

- Jesus claims immortality:

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. (John 2;19 – 22)

Jesus the **God-man** – Jesus Proclaims His Divinity:

- **Jesus claims immortality:**

The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (John 3:35 -36)

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." (John 10:17 – 18)

Jesus the God-man –Avoiding Confusion about Christ’s dual nature

- There are no contradictions* between the human and divine natures. Either nature does some things the other nature does not do and what ever one nature does the person of Christ does.

*A logical contradiction exists when something is “A” and not “A” at the same time and in the same relationship.

Jesus the God-man –Avoiding Confusion about Christ's dual nature

EXAMPLE 1:

For where two or three are gathered in my name, **there am I among them.**“

(Matthew 18:20) **Divine Nature**

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) **Human Nature**

Jesus the God-man –Avoiding Confusion about Christ's dual nature

Example 2:

Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about **thirty years of age** (Luke 3:23) **Human Nature**

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I am.**"
(John 8:58) **Divine Nature**

Jesus the God-man –Avoiding Confusion about Christ's dual nature

EXAMPLE 3:

And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. (Matthew 8:26) Divine Nature

Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. (John 4:6) Human Nature

Jesus the God-man – His Divinity: Raising the Dead

- We need to distinguish between Jesus being resurrected to a “heavenly body” never to die again and various cases in the OT and NT when dead people are restored to life only to die a second time.
 - **Elijah raised the Widow’s Son:** cried to the Lord (1 Kings 17:20 – 23)
 - **Elisha Raises the Shunammite’s Son:** prayed (2 Kings 4: 32 – 35)
 - **Peter Raised Tabitha :** prayed (Acts 9:36 – 41)
 - **Paul Raised Eutychus:** bent over him (Acts 20:7 – 12)

Jesus the God-man – His Divinity: Raising the Dead

- Jesus also restored dead people to life only for them to die again.
 - **The Widow of Nain's son.** "Young man, I say to you, arise." (Luke 7:11 – 15)
 - **Jairus's daughter.** "Child, arise." (Luke 8:51–56)
 - **Lazarus** "Lazarus, come out." (John 11:41 – 44)
- The difference is Jesus restored the dead to life by his divine command while the other examples are by prayer.