

The Humanity of Christ

1. The Son of God became fully human

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ 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 1:34-35)

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man. (Luke 2:52)

For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2:18)

2. Jesus was tempted but never sinned

"Which one of you convicts me of sin?" (John 8:46)

So was Jesus tempted as we are? Distinguo!

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

a) Jesus' temptations were not like ours in some ways

By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, [God] condemned sin in the flesh (Romans 8:3)

b) Jesus' temptations were not even like Adam's in some ways

"I always do those things which please [the Father]." (John 8:29)

c) Jesus' temptations were like ours in important ways

Jesus understands unfulfilled desire

Jesus understands the desire for assurance

Jesus understands the desire to take the easier way out

3. Jesus' sinless humanity is essential for our salvation

...to be our mediator

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus... (1 Timothy 2:5)

...to be our representative

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:19)

...to be our substitute

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:17)

...to be our pattern in life and beyond

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:22-23)