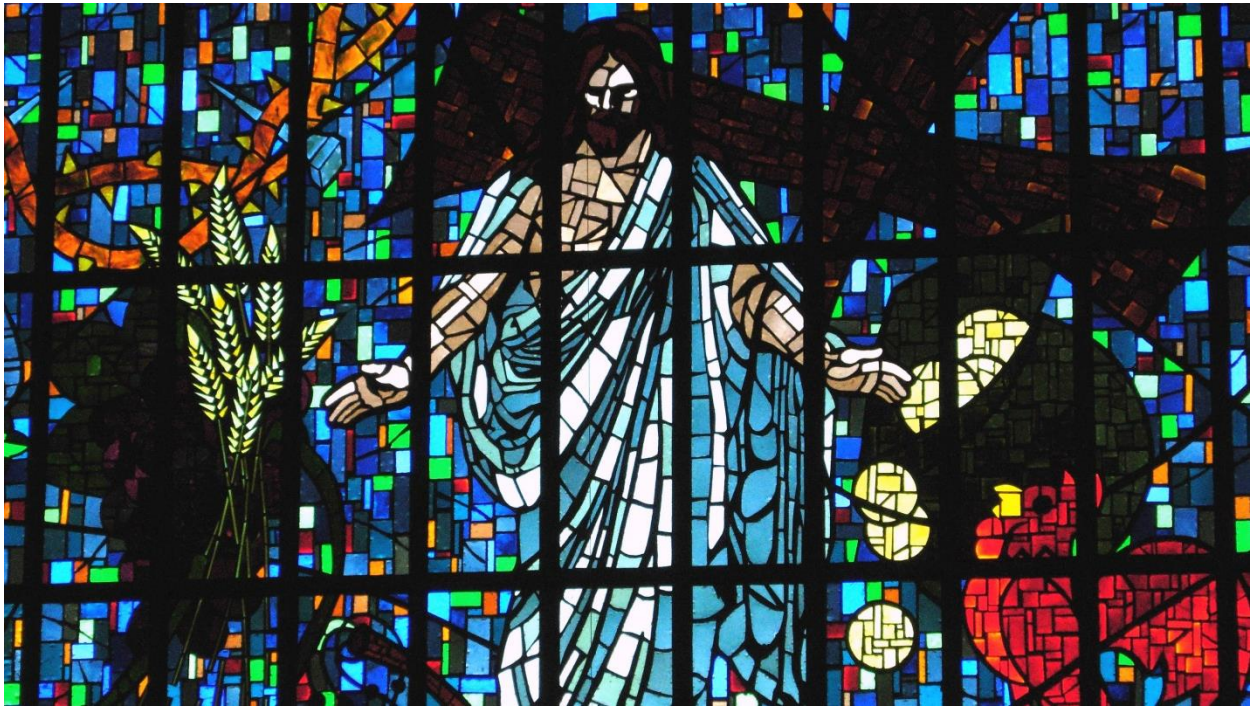




# The Person of Christ

Key Doctrines for Starting and Finishing Strong

LESSON 2 | Part 2



*"As the print of the seal of the wax is the express image of the seal itself, so Christ is the express image—the perfect representation of God."*

AMBROSE

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## MAIN POINTS IN THIS LESSON:

- His Nature—What Kind of Person Was Jesus Christ?
- His Offices—In What Role Does He Function Now?
- His Character—What Type of Person Was/Is Jesus?

## Are the following statements true or false? (circle one)

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- Jesus is part God and part man. T F
- Jesus was not a normal human being. T F

Be on the lookout for the answers to these questions as we study the Word of God.



## His Nature—What Kind of Person Was Jesus Christ?

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This section is critical to whom we say that Jesus is because all false teaching and/or cults will err on this subject.

- A. The Bible gives two tests that will reveal false teaching about the person of Christ. False teachers and/or cults will deny one of these truths about His nature:

1. 1 John 2:22-23: \_\_\_\_\_
2. 1 John 4:1-3: \_\_\_\_\_

- B. We have already looked at His Deity; now let us consider His humanity.

What are the proofs of His humanity?

1. He had a human \_\_\_\_\_. (*Gal. 4:4; Matt.1:18-2:11*)
2. He had human \_\_\_\_\_. (*Luke 2:52*)
3. He experienced human \_\_\_\_\_ and limitations. (*Mark 4:38; Luke 4:2; John 4:6, 11:35; Heb.2:18*)

It is important to know that Jesus' human nature continues forever. He did not stop being a man when He ascended to heaven. Now, He exists as the God-man. His resurrected human body is a pattern of the body of believers who will be raised (*1 Cor.15:20-23, 42-49*). In addition, His continued humanity is connected to the final judgment (*Acts 17:31*) and His role as mediator (*1 Tim.2:5*).

- C. One of the most difficult issues that arises about the nature of Christ being God and man is: how can these two natures exist together without affecting each other? This is important because if any of His attributes of deity were lost in the incarnation, then He was not truly God and, therefore, could not save us. Or, if He was not truly a human being, then He could not truly die in our place and bear our sin debt.

John Walvoord writes, "To rob the nature of God of a single attribute would destroy His deity, and to rob man of a single human attribute would result in the destruction of a true humanity. It is for this reason that the two natures of Christ cannot lose or transfer a single attribute." (*Jesus Christ our Lord*, p.121)

How can we explain the dual nature of Christ?

- A. First, we must understand that JESUS IS NOT deity possessing humanity. This would make His humanity inhuman or superhuman.
- B. Second, we must understand that JESUS IS NOT humanity merely indwelt by deity, for then He would have been a man just filled with God and not God Himself. The dual nature of Christ, or hypostatic union, as it is called, can be best described as the Son of God uniting with a human nature: *undiminished deity and true humanity united in one person forever*. This Christ can, at the same moment, have seemingly contradictory qualities. He can be *weak and omnipotent, increasing in knowledge and omniscient, finite and infinite*.



## His Offices—In What Role Does He Function Now?

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The offices of Jesus refer to the functions or roles that He serves as the Son of God. There are three offices that Jesus fulfills in His incarnation. Read the following verses to discover His three-fold office:

- A. John 1:18: \_\_\_\_\_ (See also John 4:25)

A prophet's role was to *reveal the will and Word of God to people*. In a much greater way, Christ not only revealed God's will in His spoken ministry, but also in His life and person.

- B. Hebrews 3:1-6: \_\_\_\_\_

A priest is a person who is *appointed to act for other men in things pertaining to God*. Jesus is truly our High Priest. (*Heb.7:25*)

- C. John 18:37: \_\_\_\_\_ (See also 1 Tim.6:15)

His prophetic office is concerned *with the revelation of the truth of God*. The priestly office is related to *His work as Savior and Mediator*. His kingly office has in view *His right to reign over the kingdom of God, the church, and the entire earth*.



## His Character—What Type of Person Was Jesus Christ?

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A. What does the writer of Hebrews reveal to us about the character of Christ in Hebrews 4:15?

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B. According to 1 Peter 2:21-22, what example does Peter challenge believers to follow?

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### Discussion:

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- Could Jesus Christ have sinned?

The point of view that Christ could sin is called by theologians *"peccability"* (*"posse non peccare,"* Latin for *"ability to sin"*). The opposing view, which states that Christ could not sin, is called *"impeccability"* (*"no posse peccare,"* Latin for *"inability to sin"*). (*2 Cor.5:21; Heb.7:26; 1 Pet.1:19; 1 John 3:5*)

**Here's an illustration:** Picture a muscular weight lifter holding a strong, steel chain. He grabs one end of the chain with one hand and the other end with the other hand. He tries with all of his might to pull in opposite directions and break the chain, but he cannot. The chain is unbreakable. Now, hand this same strong man a piece of string. Ask him to do the same with the frail, thin string. When he tries to pull the thread in half, it easily rips in two. Now, take the same string and weave it through each link of the steel chain so that the two are inseparably connected together. Hand the chain back to the muscular man and ask him to break the string. Mustering all his strength, the weight lifter cannot rip the string. Why? The answer is obvious. The frail string is now as strong as the chain because the string is interwoven with the chain. This is a picture of the nature of Christ. The human nature of Christ was inseparably joined to His divine nature at the incarnation. Therefore, Christ's human will was as strong as His divine will. His deity was not as weak as His humanity; rather, His humanity was as strong as His deity. His human will was unbreakable because His divine will was unbreakable. Bottom line, Jesus was impeccable! He could not sin (*"non posse peccare"*). Because it is impossible for God to sin, it was impossible for Christ to sin. Why? JESUS IS GOD!

## Reflection:

How should a greater understanding of Jesus Christ affect you?

- It should affect my worship by...
- It should affect my obedience by...
- It should affect my relationships by...
- It should affect my salvation by...
- It should affect my hope by...
- It should affect my instruction by...
- It should affect my praise by...

Years ago, William Bradbury wrote a great hymn of the Faith, "The Solid Rock:"

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

## Closing:

**Application questions:** Being a Doer of the Word

- **2 Timothy 3:16**—"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching [what is right], for reproof [what is not right], for correction [how to get right], for training in righteousness [how to stay right]; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."
1. What did I learn ("teaching")?
  2. Where do I fall short ("reproof")?
  3. What do I need to do about it ("correction")?
  4. How can I make this a consistent part of my life ("training")?

## Answer Key:

Are the following statements true or false?

- F
- F

His Nature—What Kind of Person Was Jesus Christ?

A.

1. His deity
2. His humanity

B.

1. mother
2. development
3. challenges

His Offices—In What Role Does He Function Now?

- A. Prophet
- B. Priest
- C. King

His Character—What Type of Person Was Jesus Christ?

- A. He can sympathize with our weakness
- B. the example of Christ, who committed no sin

# Holy Habits Weekly Devotion



This week's memory verse: **1 Timothy 2:5**—*"For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*

This week's holy habit: **Prayer**

Certainly, there is power in prayer that is aligned with the will of God. We glorify, thank, and petition Him, because we should. When our spiritual vibrancy wanes, one of the checkpoints where we can begin troubleshooting is in our prayer life. Prayer time is available to us throughout the day, and we need to actively nurture this life-sustaining habit. Perhaps, you have set times: when you wake up; during meals; before retiring for the evening; when you are troubled; etc. If you do not consistently do so, consider briefly praying right on the spot: when His grace and sovereignty are on display; as you take note of the natural beauty around you; before responding to a verbal provocation or dealing with a challenging person/situation at home, school, or work; for your life and the lives of others; etc. There truly are numerous opportunities to call on our lifeline. Father, let us be intentional about doing so.

## DAY 1 Read Hebrews 7:23-28.

- Consider Christ's functions that He fulfills in His incarnation: Prophet, Priest, and King. Choose one or more of these offices, and offer up thankful prayers for their influence in your life.

## DAY 2 Read 1 Timothy 2:5.

- Spend some time thinking about what Jesus Christ being the God-man means to believers. Throughout the day, pray that those people you know who are professing to have faith, but are denying this fact, would come to know and accept this truth.

## DAY 3 Read Ephesians 5:1-2.

- Those who seemingly deserve love the least are the ones who need it the most. Christ understands and sympathizes with us in spite of our flaws. Pray that you will be able to imitate this type of character with someone who has been challenging to you.

## DAY 4 Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5.

- As you hear about evil acts around you, thank God right on the spot for how much He restrains it and orchestrates its impact to fulfill His purposes. Read Genesis 50:20 and offer up a prayer of thanks for a time when you personally experienced this.

## DAY 5 Read Ephesians 6:18-20.

- Pray the opportunity to share what you have learned/what stood out for you with someone who needs to hear it.

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