

## GOD THE SON IS THE SON OF MAN

### I. John 1:1-14

**A. The Christian Creeds were written as doctrinal statements, summations of the Scriptures, passed to us from the Apostles' teachings as canonized in the New Testament. Many addressed errant doctrines or heresies arising in the church. We view them as important and value them as sound orthodox summations of what the Scriptures teach regarding the nature of God, the Gospel, the church, etc...**

**B. Rest assured this is not a message about the Creeds. It's a continuance of our study of *God the Son*; Who He is and why it matters. We've been exploring Jesus' various claims to Deity. His "*I Am*" statements. Today we take a glance at His humanity. Jesus truly was fully God and fully Man. The Bible tells us so.**

**C. The Nicene Creed (325 AD) says this of Jesus:** "[I believe] in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man..."

**D. The Chalcedonian Creed (451 AD) addresses the two natures of Christ, a.k.a. *The Hypostatic Union*:** "We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable [rational] soul and body; consubstantial [co-essential] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have declared] concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us."

**\* To listen to "The Hypostatic Union" Rap Song by Shai Linne, go to:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdGMXWSkR1A>

**E. Our Scriptures today speak to both the divinity and the humanity of Christ. Most cults deny one of these two natures. John had to address this even in his day. 2 John 1:7 (ESV) says: "*For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.*" Some affirm Jesus was God but not human. Others affirm Him as fully human but not Divine. True Christians affirm both...**

**F. John 1:1-14 (ESV) is our chief text--God the Son is the Son of Man...**

**1) V1-2: *1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. (Who are we talking about here?)***

**2) V3-9: *3 All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In Him (Who?) was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. (John the Baptist) 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through Him. 8 He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light. 9 The true Light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. (Who is the Light? Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world.")***

**3) V10-14: *10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. 12 But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (V10 & 14 show both natures.)***

**G. The miracles, signs, & wonders Jesus performed all affirmed His Divinity. But we must not forget that little Baby, born in a Bethlehem stable, wrapped in swaddling cloths, laid in a feeding trough. As a Boy He ran and played, skinned His knees. As a Carpenter He surely got callouses and splinters. After fasting 40 days in the desert, He was hungry. When He showed up at the Sychar well, He was exhausted and thirsty. When suffocating on the cross, He also cried out in thirst. Near the tomb of His friend Lazarus, He wept. In the Garden before He was arrested, Jesus sweat blood, His soul was overcome with deep sorrow to the point of death, and He prayed that the cup He was about to drink be taken from Him. When they whipped His back down to the hide, He felt the pain and bled. When they crowned Him with thorns, He bled. When they nailed His hands and feet to the cross, they bled. When they**

pierced His side, blood and water flowed out. He labored for every breath on the cross just to speak. Jesus was fully Man.

H. Jesus was also tempted. He was tempted to sin in all the same ways we are. Remember how Satan tempted Him in the desert? Satan undoubtedly threw every ugly temptation at Jesus imaginable. Even the unimaginable! But Jesus never caved. Never gave in. When we're tempted, He totally understands. He can relate so well that Paul tells us **1 Cor. 10:13** that when we're tempted, He will show us the way of escape. You say, *'The devil made me do it!'* Christ says, *'When you're tempted, look to Me to overcome it!'* (He's been in your burning smoke-filled house and He knows the way out!)

I. Have you ever been betrayed? Have you ever been slandered? Ever lost a close friend or loved one? Have you ever been offered the world on a silver platter by a sweet-talking liar? Have you ever suffered excruciating pain? He has too!

J. **Hebrews 4:14-16** (Amplified) is totally affirms: **14** *Inasmuch then as we [believers] have a great High Priest who has [already ascended and] passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession [of faith and cling tenaciously to our absolute trust in Him as Savior].* **15** *For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize and understand our weaknesses and temptations, but One who has been tempted [knowing exactly how it feels to be human] in every respect as we are, yet without [committing any] sin.* **16** *Therefore let us [with privilege] approach the throne of grace [that is, the throne of God's gracious favor] with confidence and without fear, so that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find [His amazing] grace to help in time of need [an appropriate blessing, coming just at the right moment].* (John Calvin: *"Christ has put on our feelings along with our flesh."*)

K. So why did God the Son become the Son of Man? Why did He take on flesh and dwell among us? **Galatians 4:4-6** (ESV) says: **4** *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law,* **5** *to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.* **6** *And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"*

L. According to that law, the sins of those who broke it required atonement. Further, that atonement required the shedding of blood. Animal sacrifice, though instituted by God, did not adequately atone for our sins. Those sacrifices foreshadowed the One who would come and truly atone for our sins. God the Son--the Son of Man--The Lamb of God, without spot or blemish, would become our atoning sacrifice for sin when He shed His precious blood upon the cross.

M. **Hebrews 9:22-28** (NLT) wonderfully describes the importance of Christ's humanity: **22** *In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.* **23** *That is why the Tabernacle and everything in it, which were copies of things in heaven, had to be purified by the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven had to be purified with far better sacrifices than the blood of animals.* **24** *For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf.* **25** *And He did not enter heaven to offer Himself again and again, like the high priest here on earth who enters the Most Holy Place year after year with the blood of an animal.* **26** *If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But now, once for all time, He has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by His own death as a sacrifice.* **27** *And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment,* **28** *so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for Him.* (God the Son became the Son of Man in order die for our sins, restore us to God, and make us His own.)

\* Close with Prayer...

### [Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

#### [John 1:1-14](#) (ESV)

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through Him. **8** He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light. **9** The true Light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. **12** But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## **2 John 1:7 (ESV)**

7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.

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14 Inasmuch then as we [believers] have a great High Priest who has [already ascended and] passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession [of faith and cling tenaciously to our absolute trust in Him as Savior]. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize and understand our weaknesses and temptations, but One who has been tempted [knowing exactly how it feels to be human] in every respect as we are, yet without [committing any] sin. 16 Therefore let us [with privilege] approach the throne of grace [that is, the throne of God's gracious favor] with confidence and without fear, so that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find [His amazing] grace to help in time of need [an appropriate blessing, coming just at the right moment].

## **Galatians 4:4-6 (ESV)**

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

## **Hebrews 9:22-28 (NLT)**

22 In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. 23 That is why the Tabernacle and everything in it, which were copies of things in heaven, had to be purified by the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven had to be purified with far better sacrifices than the blood of animals. 24 For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf. 25 And He did not enter heaven to offer Himself again and again, like the high priest here on earth who enters the Most Holy Place year after year with the blood of an animal. 26 If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But now, once for all time, He has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by His own death as a sacrifice. 27 And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, 28 so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for Him.

## **Film Clips & Other Links**

Jesus is Fully Human - Article by David Mathias - Desiring God

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/jesus-is-fully-human>

Creeds & Confessions - (CARM) Christian Apologetics & Research Ministries

<https://carm.org/creeds-and-confessions>

"The Hypostatic Union" Rap Song by Shai Linne

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdGMXWskR1A>

"The Home Game" - Musical Trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kJrZOSiQC4>

## **Bonus Stuff**

### **Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV)**

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Colossians 1:15-23 (ESV)**

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 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. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. 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. 21 And you, who once were alienated and

hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

### **Hebrews 2:5-18 (ESV)**

**5** For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. **6** It has been testified somewhere, *"What is man, that You are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? **7** You made him for a little while lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, **8** putting everything in subjection under his feet."* Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. **9** But we see Him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. **10** For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. **11** For He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers, **12** saying, *"I will tell of Your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."* **13** And again, *"I will put my trust in Him."* And again, *"Behold, I and the children God has given Me."* **14** Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. **16** For surely it is not angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham. **17** 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. **18** For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

### **1 John 4:2-3 (ESV)**

**2** By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, **3** and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

### **Quote by R.C. Sproul**

"The christological debates of the early church can be hard to keep track of, but there is one important conclusion from them that we can easily remember, namely, that Jesus' humanity is as important to our salvation as His deity. Because He was and remains truly human as well as truly divine, Jesus atoned perfectly for our sin and helps us in our temptation. He can save us and sanctify us because He is one of us without sacrificing any of His deity."

### **The Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)**

This creed was first formulated at the First Ecumenical Council, held at Nicea, located in what is now Turkey, in 325, as a response to the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ. It was revised at the Second Ecumenical Council, held at Constantinople in 381 as a response to the Macedonian or Pneumatomachian heresy, which denied the divinity of the Holy Spirit.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Note: The word "catholic" with a lower case 'c' does not mean the Roman Catholic Church, but the universal Christian Church as a whole.

### **The Chalcedonian Creed (451 A.D.)**

This creed was adopted at the Fourth Ecumenical Council, held at Chalcedon, located in what is now Turkey, in 451, as a response to certain heretical views concerning the nature of Christ. It established the orthodox view that Christ has two natures (human and divine) that are unified in one person.

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable [rational] soul and body; consubstantial [co-essential] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have declared] concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

### **Why Is Jesus Called "Son of Man"?**

Interview with John Piper

<http://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/why-is-jesus-called-son-of-man>

*Why is Jesus called "Son of Man"?*

Let me give a common understanding and then a more sophisticated historical understanding.

The common understanding is that "Son of God" implies His deity—which it does—and that "Son of Man" implies His humanity, which it does too.

He was a son of man, that is, a human being. And He is the Son of God, in that He has always existed as the Eternally Begotten One who comes forth from the Father forever. He always has, and He always will. He is the Second Person of the Trinity with all of the divine nature fully in Him.

He is born of a virgin. He had a human father but He didn't have sex with this virgin until Jesus was conceived. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit in the virgin Mary. Thus He is human—fully human. The Bible wants to emphasize that He is fully human.

So that's the common understanding: He is both divine and He is human—two natures, one person.

The more sophisticated and important historical insight is that the term "Son of Man" doesn't merely align Him with humanity. It is probably taken from Daniel 7. And if you read that chapter you'll see that the Son of Man is a very exalted figure: not just a human figure but an exalted figure. It was Jesus' favorite self-designation.

If you do a study of the term "Son of Man" in the Gospels you'll see that He didn't refer to Himself most often as Son of God but as Son of Man. He said things like, in [Mark 10:45](#), "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many." So He calls Himself Son of Man very often.

I think the reason he did so is because, on the face of it, Son of Man is an ordinary phrase for "human being." He was born of a man. And there's no offense there: who isn't a son of man? But those with ears to hear could hear Daniel 7, in which He was claiming a very exalted role in the history of redemption. And he meant to do it.

Jesus was very subtle in that He was always opening His identity to those with eyes to see, but He wasn't opening it so blatantly that everybody would come and make Him king. He had to steer a very narrow course in disclosing His identity, not just openly saying, "I'm the Messiah, I'm the King of the World. Come and acknowledge Me as King." He didn't talk like that.

He was quiet. He was subtle. And He would make claims that were explicit in certain settings and implicit in others. And only when the time was right—mainly when He was on trial for His life, and they said, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the living God?"—did He say, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man coming with great power and glory." So He confessed His open deity right at the point where He knew He would be crucified for it.

So I hope that helps. "Son of Man" has the double meaning of human being and, according to Daniel 7, exalted heavenly one. And Jesus means to communicate both of those.

- John Piper is founder and teacher of [desiringGod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org) and chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary. For 33 years, he served as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is author of more than 50 books, including [Reading the Bible Supernaturally](#).

## **How Can Jesus Be Both God and Man at the Same Time?**

By S. Michael Houdmann - <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-God-man.html>

**Answer:** The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is both God and man. Many Christians are understandably confused when it comes to understanding how Jesus can be God and man at the same time. How could our divine Creator become a human? Could a first-century Jewish man really be God? While a certain amount of mystery will always accompany this issue, both Scripture and, to a lesser extent, church tradition provide for us important distinctions to help us make sense of this matter.

While previous church councils had deliberated over issues pertaining to the nature of Christ and His relationship to the Father, it was the [Council of Chalcedon](#) (AD 481) that affirmed that Christ is “the same perfect in divinity and perfect in humanity, the same truly God and truly man.” This statement is not true simply because the council taught it. Rather, the council’s declaration was authoritative only insofar as it aligned with what the Bible teaches on the subject. Scripture is clear that Jesus is God ([John 20:28](#); [Titus 2:13](#); [Hebrews 1:8](#)), and it is equally clear that He is truly human ([Romans 1:2–4](#); [1 John 4:2–3](#)). Jesus claimed the divine name ([John 8:58](#)) and did things that only God can do ([Mark 2:1–12](#); [Luke 7:48–50](#)). But Jesus also displayed the weaknesses and vulnerabilities common to humanity ([Luke 19:41](#); [John 19:28](#)).

The belief that Jesus is both God and man is of fundamental importance. The apostle Paul wrote that an affirmation of the divinity of Jesus is required to be saved ([Romans 10:9](#)), and the apostle John provided a sober warning that those who deny Christ’s true humanity are promoting the doctrine of antichrist ([2 John 1:7](#)).

The Triune God of the Bible has existed and reigned from all eternity, and the second Person of the [Trinity](#), the Son, took on human flesh at a particular point in time ([Luke 1:35](#); [Hebrews 1:5](#)). God the Son added a sinless human nature to His eternally existent divine nature. The result was the Incarnation. God the Son became a man ([John 1:1, 14](#)). [Hebrews 2:17](#) gives the reason that Jesus had to be both God and man: “He had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.” The Son of God took on human flesh to provide redemption to those under the law ([Galatians 4:4–5](#)).

At no time did Jesus ever cease to be God. Although He was made fully human, there was never a point when He abrogated His divine nature (see [Luke 6:5, 8](#)). It is equally true that, after becoming incarnate, the Son has never ceased to be human. As the apostle Paul wrote, “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, *the man* Christ Jesus” ([1 Timothy 2:5](#), emphasis added). Jesus is not half-human and half-divine. Rather, He is *Theanthropos*, the God-man. The Lord Jesus Christ is one eternally divine Person who will forever possess two [distinct yet inseparable natures](#): one divine and one human.

- While he is not the author of every article on [GotQuestions.org](#), for citation purposes, you may reference our CEO, S. Michael Houdmann.

## **Why Is the Humanity of Jesus Important?**

By S. Michael Houdmann - <https://www.gotquestions.org/humanity-of-Jesus.html>

**Answer:** The humanity of Jesus is as equally important as the [deity of Jesus](#). Jesus was born as a human being while still being totally divine. The concept of the humanity of Jesus co-existing with His deity is difficult for the finite mind of man to comprehend. Nevertheless, Jesus’ nature—wholly man and wholly God—is a biblical fact. There are those who reject these biblical truths and declare that Jesus was a man, but not God (Ebionism). [Docetism](#) is the view that Jesus was God, but not human. Both viewpoints are unbiblical and false.

Jesus had to be born as a human being for several reasons. One is outlined in [Galatians 4:4–5](#): “But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.” Only a man could be “born under the law.” No animal or angelic being is “under the law.” Only humans are born under the law, and only a human being could redeem other human beings born under the same law. Born under the law of God, all humans are guilty of transgressing that law. Only a perfect human—Jesus Christ—could perfectly keep the law and perfectly fulfill the law, thereby redeeming us from that guilt. Jesus accomplished our redemption on the cross, exchanging our sin for His perfect righteousness ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)).

Another reason Jesus had to be fully human is that God established the necessity of the shedding of blood for the remission of sins ([Leviticus 17:11](#); [Hebrews 9:22](#)). The blood of animals, although acceptable on a temporary basis as a foreshadowing of the blood of the perfect God-Man, was insufficient for the permanent remission of sin because “it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins” ([Hebrews 10:4](#)). Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb of

God, sacrificed His human life and shed His human blood to cover the sins of all who would ever believe in Him. If He were not human, this would have been impossible.

Furthermore, the humanity of Jesus enables Him to relate to us in a way the angels or animals never can. “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin” ([Hebrews 4:15](#)). Only a human could sympathize with our weaknesses and temptations. In His humanity, Jesus was subjected to all the same kinds of trials that we are, and He is, therefore, able to sympathize with us and to aid us. He was tempted; He was persecuted; He was poor; He was despised; He suffered physical pain; and He endured the sorrows of a lingering and most cruel death. Only a human being could experience these things, and only a human being could fully understand them through experience.

Finally, it was necessary for Jesus to come in the flesh because believing that truth is a prerequisite for salvation. Declaring that Jesus has come in the flesh is the mark of a spirit from God, while the Antichrist and all who follow him will deny it ([1 John 4:2–3](#)). Jesus has come in the flesh; He is able to sympathize with our human frailties; His human blood was shed for our sins; and He was fully God and fully Man. These are biblical truths that cannot be denied.

Recommended Resource: [The Moody Handbook of Theology by Paul Enns](#)

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