

Christmas Message December 23, 2007

John 1:14 (NKJV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Who is Jesus Christ? How can we *define* Him? He needs *defining*, because He is not simply another man – another human being. His person is totally “other” when compared to anyone else. With Jesus it's not only His *Who?* but His *What?* that needs some explaining.

He is *the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us*. OK, so what does that mean?

Jesus Christ is both Full-Blown Deity and Flawless Humanity united in One Person forever.

Let's nail down four points within that statement:

1. Full-blown Deity – Jesus is God in the plainest sense of the word.
2. Flawless Humanity – We'll use the word **flawless** to emphasize His complete lack of sin.
3. One Person – His **full-blown deity** and **flawless humanity** were combined in **one person** – not two.
4. Forever – He continues to be both God and Man. He is both God and man right now and will remain so (glorified human body included).

Without question the *Full-Blown Deity* aspect of Jesus Christ is the most difficult to grasp, so that will be our primary focus today.

I. Full-Blown Deity

A. Jesus Christ has characteristics which only God has:

1. **Eternality.** He claimed to exist from eternity past. For example, one time as He prayed, He said:

John 17:5 (NKJV) And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

2. **Omnipresence.** He claimed to be present a various places at once.

Matthew 18:20 (NKJV) For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

3. Omniscience. He showed knowledge of things that no one else knew, such as: The thoughts of others, events surrounding His own death, and the prediction of Peter's denial.

Mark 14:30 (NKJV) Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

4. Omnipotence. He demonstrated and claimed unlimited power. He even gave His power to others, revealing that He was the source of it.

Luke 9:1 (NKJV) Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.

B. Jesus Christ does things which only God can do:

1. Forgiveness. He forgives sins. Men may forgive one another, but Christ grants forgiveness of sins in general. (Mark 2:1-12).
2. Life. He gives life to whomever He wishes (John 5:21).

John 5:21 (NKJV) For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

3. Resurrection. He raised the dead on several occasions. Even regarding His own death and resurrection He said the following:

John 10:17-18 (NKJV) ¹⁷"... I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

4. Judgment. He claims authority in our final judgment:

John 5:25-30 (NKJV) ²⁵Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. ²⁶For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. ³⁰I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

C. Jesus claimed to be God

- No doubt His most direct claim was at the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) when He said, "I and the Father are One" (John 10:30).

- The word He uses, “One” alludes to unity in natures and actions. This could only be true if He were as much Deity as the Father.
- Those who heard Jesus say this understood Him well, for they instantly tried to stone Him. Why? For blasphemy, because He made Himself out to be God (v. 33).

II. Flawless Humanity

A. Jesus Christ had a human body

- He was born with a normal human body which grew and developed like anyone else's from infancy to adulthood (Luke 2:52).

B. He displayed the normal traits of normal people

- Our Lord was hungry (Matt. 4:2).
- He was thirsty (John 19:28).
- He grew weary (4:6).
- He experienced love and compassion (Matt. 9:36).
- He wept (John 11:35).
- He was tested (Heb. 4:15).

These are normal human traits.

C. He had a human ancestry:

- He was the “Son of David”, a title that linked Him to His ancestor David and to His identity as the promised Messiah.

III. The Combining of Attributes

- Both natures – human and divine – belong to the one Person without mixing the natures or dividing the Person.
- This is how Christ could be weak, yet all-powerful; get information from others and yet know all things; confine Himself to a body and yet promise to be with us all.
- The One Person of Jesus actually thirsted; the One Person grew weary; and (here's a tough one) the Person of Jesus died.
 - Clearly, God does not die, grow weary or thirst. But the Person, Jesus Christ, the God-Man, did them all.

*The incarnation was a necessary means to an end, and the end was the putting away of the sin of the world by the offering of the body of Christ
– Hewitt, Thomas*

- Think of the worst thing you've ever done and the worst thing ever done to you.
- Now consider this: Christ died to negate the effects of those sins for all eternity.
 - You don't have to bear the guilt of your own sin.
 - You don't have to carry the scars of the damage done to you.
- Christ died to negate the effects of those sins for all eternity.
- And the great motivation for His death was His great love for us.

John 15:13-15 (NKJV) ¹³Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

- But notice that His friendship only truly comes with complete surrender.

John 15:14 (NKJV) You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

Jesus Christ demands more complete allegiance than any dictator who ever lived. The difference is, he has the right to. – Havner, Vance

- If Jesus Christ is not the most important person in my life or yours, then He's not important enough to us. He needs to be the dominating thing about our existence.
 - That is the place He wants.
 - As the God who made us and the Man who died for us, that is the place He deserves.