Section: Doctrine of Christ (Christology)

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**TEACHING NOTES**

**Q60. Does Jesus now have a divine nature or a human nature?**

At the incarnation, Jesus took on a human nature yet remained eternally, fully divine at the same time. Jesus Christ is one Person, fully God and fully man.

We once again turn our study of the Doctrine of Christ (Christology). What a true pleasure it is to focus in further on our great Savior—the King of kings!

I hope that our last lesson was eye opening and that the questions that may have begun and will continue to be answered as we continue on in our focus on the hypostatic union.

Bow your heads in prayer with me.

**Q60. Does Jesus now have a divine nature or a human nature?**

At the incarnation, Jesus took on a human nature yet remained eternally, fully divine at the same time. Jesus Christ is one Person, fully God and fully man.

If you recall last week’s lesson, I said there were 5 primary points from our study through this catechism question that I wanted to cover. Those 5 points were:

1st What is the incarnation,

2nd what is the hypostatic union,

3rd Jesus is 1 person,

4th Jesus is fully God, and

5th Jesus is fully man.

Last week we covered our first 4 points. So we will now turn our focus to the 5th point Jesus is fully man. I also want to end with some practical application and hermeneutical tools for us to consider.

I want to do a brief refresher of what I taught on last week prior to digging into this point. I think it will be helpful to have these things in your mind as we dig into this point. So let me give a brief summary of each point now.

**P:1 The incarnation:**

The incarnation is the very point in time when the eternal Son of God, Jesus, took on a human nature as He was miraculously conceived in the womb of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. Conception is the moment in time when Jesus put on flesh. Prior to this Jesus had always existed, possessing a divine nature, being fully God. After this point in time Jesus also possesses a human nature and that human nature is something He keeps from this moment on forever. The incarnation is the theological term for Jesus taking upon Himself a human nature.

**P:2 The hypostatic union:**

Hypostatic Union: Jesus Christ’s eternal, fully divine nature being united to His fully human nature at His incarnation. These two natures are not mixed, confused, or changed but are united without loss of separate identity, and they are inseparable.

Because Jesus is one person, when He took on a human nature we say that both His divine nature and human nature were united **in** His person.

These natures are inseparable because Christ Jesus will, from the incarnation onward, **always possess** both of them.

These natures are “united” because it is **one person** who possesses them not because the natures themselves are mixed together in any way.

**P:3 Jesus is 1 person:**

Personhood and nature are two distinct things. When we speak of Jesus being 1 person this distinction really helps us to understand the union between the two natures that Jesus possesses.

As human beings, we possess the same nature that all other human beings possess. However our personhood is distinct to us as individuals.

When it comes to personhood there are attributes that all “persons” posses, however there are many things that are very different from person to person because personhood is distinct according to each particular person.

This is why Christ Jesus can possess two distinct and full natures that are not mixed and at the same time have these natures united. They are united because it is the One Person of Jesus who possesses them.

**P:4 Jesus is fully God:**

We covered many scriptures showing clearly that the word of God declares Jesus to be divine, to be the 2nd person of the triune God. Jesus Himself proclaimed to be the “I am.” The very things He did proved that He is God.

Even His enemies knew that He was proclaiming to be God.

We will connect these truths again as we continue on in our lesson but I’m hopeful that these brief refreshers will help keep these things in your mind as we dig into the humanity of Jesus.

**P:5 Jesus is fully man:**

Jesus, being eternally God, chose to take on a human nature in order to fulfill the Covenant of Redemption, which if you remember was a covenant of works to Jesus. Of this covenant, as Pastor Matt has said in His covenant theology lessons, “All of creation is set in the context of this divine plan.”

God had an eternal plan and set it in the Covenant of Redemption through which God would, by sending the Son to take on flesh, redeem a particular people unto Himself. Jesus taking on a fully human nature does this work because of this covenant. It’s important that we remember these truths as we dig into this lesson.

This particular point is being given some extra time and attention because I truly believe that it is a point with which we do not consider correctly the extent of the implications of Christ Jesus’s actions. Perhaps it is better to say it this way, we far too often forget the truth that Jesus took on a complete human nature and that this humiliation for Jesus was very real. When we rightly comprehend what God the Son did it will cause us to be flooded with awe, praise, and love for our Savior. We simply do not think about the depths of this act enough and I’m confident that as you consider these things it will draw your heart into a deeper communion with Jesus.

So let’s begin our time in this point by understanding the humiliation or humbling that Jesus went through to take on this fully human nature.

Our WoTC defines Christ’s humility this way:

Humiliation of Christ: Jesus, in obedience to God the Father, took on human nature, came under the law, was tempted in this life, suffered the wrath of God by being cursed on the cross, and died a physical death.

It was a great cost to God the Son Jesus, to unite a human nature in His person. We see this most clearly spoken of in:

**Philippians 2:5-11 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

What does it mean that Jesus emptied Himself? We’ve already said that at the incarnation Jesus still remained fully God. Jesus’s divine nature did not take on human nature, rather Jesus’s person took on an additional nature, that being Human. Jesus taking on a human nature does not mean that Jesus’s divine nature was changed or that Jesus’s divine nature was put away, or paused, or modified, or took on a human nature. No, Jesus remained fully God and the nature of God “Father, Son, and Spirit” did not change in any way. So we must then strive to rightly understand this humility of Christ in His taking on a human nature. What does it mean that Jesus emptied Himself? Look back at verses 6-8 of our Philippians passage:

**6who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Some have significantly misunderstood this portion so let try to bring some important distinctions for you to grasp.

The passage says that Jesus, “**emptied himself.**” We must get this right. What this means is that Jesus emptied himself of His rightful display of the fullness of glory in His time here on earth in the flesh more than 2000 years ago. To be clear, He never lost His divine nature, nor any attributes of His divine nature. Jesus taking on a human nature does not mean that Jesus’s divine nature was changed or that Jesus’s divine nature was put away, or paused, or modified.

Being eternally God, He deserved to display the fullness of divine glory and not to humbly take on a human nature that is weak and not divine. However, He willingly emptied Himself (he HUMBLED Himself) **IN** taking on a human nature.

John Gill helpfully wrote: “though Jesus took that which he had not before, he lost nothing of what he had; the glory of his divine nature was covered, and out of sight; though some rays and beams of it broke out through his works and miracles...he voluntarily subjected himself, though infinitely great and glorious.

As he did not assume deity by [robbery], he was not thrust down into this low estate by force...this was Christ's own act and deed, he willingly assented to it, to lay aside (as it were) his glory for a while, **to have it veiled and hid, and be reckoned anything, a mere man...wondrous humility! astonishing condescension!**”

Amen!

**It is what Christ took to himself (a true human nature) that humbled him.** Jesus never stopped being God. Rather, His humbling was the joining of a human nature to His person which also possessed His divine nature.

And, Church see this, God the Son emptied Himself by humbly adding to His person a nature that would allow Him to be a servant and experience humanly things, which, as God He could not experience.

Now when we speak of what we experience as humans, we unfortunately often tend to give too much authority to our personal experience. For example: I have been told that because I haven’t experienced something that someone else has, I cannot share or speak into it that particular thing. The problem with this view is that our experience is not ultimate and not always necessarily truth. When someone says they feel like something is right and they know it’s right because they feel it, they are claiming that their feelings or experience is an ultimate standard of truth. Church, this is an unfortunate error that many have made. God’s word is our ultimate standard of truth.

This is why even when someone experiences something, if God’s word declares that it is wrong or false, then it is their experience that is wrong and not God’s word. This is also why we **can** speak into things we haven’t experienced so long as what we are speaking comes from God’s word—His truth is objective. The reason our experience or feelings are not ultimate is because what we experience, we experience through a fallible sinful human nature. However, this is not how Jesus experienced things. What Christ experienced in His human nature is true and complete because His experience was not tainted by sin and therefore could not be fallible.

In all of this, be absolutely clear here Church, Jesus did not give up His deity.

In fact neither His deity nor His humanity was compromised in this act. He was not a divine human. Let’s look again at the definition of the Hypostatic union to see this clarity:

Hypostatic Union: Jesus Christ’s eternal, fully divine nature being united to His fully human nature at His incarnation. These two natures are not mixed, confused, or changed but are united without loss of separate identity, and they are inseparable.

Jesus possessed two whole perfect and distinct natures. These natures were joined together in the 1 person of Jesus but they do not mix, change, confuse, or effect these separate distinct natures. Jesus is fully God and He is fully man.

When we consider the humiliation of Jesus, we need to see that by taking on a human nature He humbled Himself to live and suffer in a way that He never could have done in His divine nature. Consider this, the eternal 2nd person of the triune God, who could not die, (God cannot die) has now taken upon His person a nature that could and would die—an experience that He is unable have in His divine nature.

The humiliation of Jesus clearly does not mean He stopped being divine, however it also clearly means that His human nature ***did*** experience all the normal things that we experience, yet without sin, and that His human nature was not exempt in any way from the suffering that we experience because He remained fully God.

His human nature was not let off the hook, so to speak, because He also possesses a divine nature. I think this is where we fail to understand the depth of the cost it was to Jesus to take on a human nature. I believe it easy for us to confuse Jesus’s natures and think, well it wasn’t as bad for Him because He is God. That would be incorrect, in fact we could rather say because the person of Jesus knew what it was to be God (He was still eternally God), what He then experiences in his human nature was actually *more difficult* since He had humbled Himself to take on this nature and experience things He rightfully did not deserve to experience personally.

All that to say Jesus’s human nature was real.

In his Human nature:

He suffered as we do.

He grew in wisdom and stature.

He learned like we learn.

Even though in His divine nature He had exhaustive knowledge of all things, by taking on a human nature and in His human nature He went through a *human process* of growing and learning.

Church, Jesus at the incarnation, is and forever will be fully man from that point on. He is also fully God and has always and will always be fully God.

This is a mystery, we will not fully grasp this in its entirety. However when we truly understand that Jesus now has a real human nature we will see why Hebrews can speak of our suffering savoir and the comfort it should bring to us to know that Jesus did and does still now know our suffering in its fullest human form.

**Hebrews 2:9-18 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. 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. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying,**

**“I will tell of your name to my brothers;**

**in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.**

**And again,**

**“I will put my trust in him.”**

**And again,**

**“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”**

**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, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 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. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.**

Church Jesus was made like us in every respect (that means he truly took on a human nature) so that we can have a merciful and faithful high priest who made propitiation for our sins.

Because He (Jesus) suffered when tempted, He is also able to help those who are being tempted. In God’s wisdom, He ordained Jesus to know(in this way) what it means to be tempted and to suffer because as a human He experienced these things like we do. Since the text uses this as encouragement, see that that was a reason God ordained it to be. God ordained the blessing of us having a Savior who we can see in the flesh and doubly know He is able to help those who are being tempted.

To be clear there are some differences between Jesus’s human nature and ours. First Jesus had the fullness of the Holy Spirit at work in His human nature His entire human life. He had the Spirit without measure!

**NIV John 3:34For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.**

For example when we consider the fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control. Jesus lacked none of these in His human nature, He possessed them to their fullest extent. We, on the other hand, tend to have some of these in various degrees.

I know many who are full of Joy but lack in patience. I know many who are full of love but lack in the area of self-control. Jesus had all of these in His human nature to their fullest extent.

Let’s look at a few things from scripture that show us the real humanity of Jesus.

1. **The Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah spoke of a man.**

In the protoevangelium of Genesis 3 the serpent was told that the seed of the woman would crush his head. That means the savior would be human. We see this in Isaiah as well:

**Isaiah 9:6 For to us a *child* is born, to us a *son* is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

A child would be born and would have the title of Mighty God. This Prince of Peace would be human and divine.

1. **He was seen as a man, called Himself a man, and grew up as a human grows up.**

**John 4:29 “Come, see a *man* who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”**

**John 9:11 He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes…”**

**John 10:33 The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”**

**Matthew 13:53-56 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this *man* get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter’s *son*? Is not his *mother* called Mary? And are not his *brothers* James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his *sisters* with us? Where then did this *man* get all these things?”**

It is clear that those who saw Jesus believed He was a man. Even His enemies proclaimed that he was a man. He had human family members.

People were astonished that a mere man whom they watched grow up before their very own eyes would have the insight that Jesus had. They were astonished because Jesus was human, yet He taught and had wisdom that was far greater than any human had before Him.

Jesus Himself said He was a man:

**John 8:40 but now you seek to kill me, a *man* who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.**

In fact, the multiple times that Jesus calls Himself the son of man refers to His human nature, just like the multiple times Jesus call Himself the son of God refers to His divine nature.

**Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.**

A few amazing truths from this short passage need to be seen. Jesus grew in wisdom, God possesses all wisdom and He is omniscient, but the man (in His Human nature) Jesus grew in wisdom. Jesus grew in stature, God is Spirit and so stature isn’t even a thing we could apply to God. However to a man we most certainly can apply stature, Jesus grew physically in stature. Jesus grew in favor with God. The eternal triune God cannot grow in favor within itself, however Jesus in His human nature could grow in the favor of God. Do you see these amazing realities church? Jesus was like us in His human nature in every respect (He was truly human). He learned things, divinity never learns it possesses all knowledge but Jesus in His human nature had to be taught things—He learned just like we do. This is amazing church!

This means that just like us, as Jesus grew in His human nature, He was able to take on more responsibilities, consider your own children if you have them. Azaria can handle more responsibility than Arylah because she has grown more, she’s older than her little sister. Now she often is not excited about these increased responsibilities but see this amazing truth church, Jesus grew in these things in the same way due to His human nature!

1. **Jesus possesses a full human nature which includes a human soul!**

This truth is astonishing to me. I think often people make the mistake of seeing Jesus’s human nature as physically human but when it comes to the soul there’s a strange disconnect and we don’t consider Him with a human soul. This would be a mistake. Jesus taking on a fully human nature means He has a human body and soul just like we do. For example:

**John 12:27 “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.**

Divinity is never troubled. God knows all things and decrees the end from the beginning. There is no way for God to be troubled. So when we see Jesus claim that His soul is troubled He is referring to His human soul.

**John 13:21 After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”**

Nothing troubles God. Jesus possesses a human soul in His human nature and His human soul was troubled at what was happening. Christian have you ever been troubled in your soul? Take heart your savior knows what that is like and He sympathizes with you because He too was troubled in His soul!

1. **Jesus had human emotions.**

**Matthew 8:10 When Jesus heard this, he *marveled* and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.**

**John 11:35 Jesus *wept.***

**Hebrews 5:7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with *loud cries and tears*, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.**

God is impassible. The divine does not have passions nor emotions. But we see here, that Jesus, in His human nature, marveled, He wept, He offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears. This another proof of His true humanity. Christian have you ever marveled? Wept? Prayed through loud cries and tears?! So has your savior! He was and still is fully human. Wow church, do you see how amazing it is to rightly understand that Jesus was, is, fully human?!

As we consider these things and the reality that Jesus possesses both a divine nature and a human nature it is oh so important to also remember that these natures are always distinct. Jesus’s human nature can never become divine, His divine nature can never become human.

Before we wrap a bow on this I want us to see this reality from scripture:

**Matthew 24:35-36 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.**

This statement that there is some knowledge of a future day that even the son does not know is a statement from the **human nature** of Jesus before the ascension. Of course Jesus’s divine nature knows the exact moment of this hour because God Himself has decreed this hour and Jesus is God. However, the human nature of Jesus can declare that He did not know this hour because in the flesh God did not see fit to reveal this knowledge to the human nature of Jesus. In His human nature He is limited to what His divine nature reveals. This is mysterious but oh so clear. Jesus has a fully human nature.

One last passage on the human nature of Jesus:

**1 John 4:2-3 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the *flesh* is from God, 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.**

Church those who are against Christ Jesus, the antichrists, are those who claim that Jesus did not have a human nature. This was a common false belief of the Gnostics during this time. Scripture is clear, Jesus came in the flesh. At the incarnation, Jesus was (and still is) fully human!

So how, in light of these truths, are we to read and understand scripture properly?

**Closing and application:**

I’m hopeful that this practical application will benefit you when studying scripture.

Because Jesus possesses both a human nature and a divine nature; when the person of Jesus does something, whether by His human nature or by His divine nature, the bible can ascribe this doing to the 1 person of Christ.

Perhaps it’s better said this way, whatever Jesus does whether by His human nature or by His divine nature, His doing can be ascribed to His person without defining which nature acted.

The historic confession of faith says it this way in chapter 8: Christ, in the work of mediation, acts according to both natures, by each nature doing that which is proper to itself; yet by reason of the unity of the person, that which is proper to one nature is sometimes in Scripture, attributed to the person denominated by the other nature. John 3:13; Acts 20:28

Because Christ is one person, whatever nature the 1 person of Christ is acting through can be ascribed to the 1 person of Christ Himself.

For example:

**1 Corinthians 2:8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the *Lord of glory*.**

When we look at this particular passage we see the Deity of Jesus referenced in the term “Lord of Glory,” and yet the action or event spoken of can only be attributed to the human nature of Jesus. The passage declares that the Lord of glory, a title most certainly referring to the Deity of Jesus, as having been crucified. So let me ask you this question; can deity be crucified?

The biblical answer is no. God is spirit and therefore cannot be crucified. You cannot nail a spirit to wood. We also know that God cannot die. So when we consider the Deity of Christ Jesus we know that in His divine nature He cannot be nailed to a cross and killed.

Now can a human nature be nailed to a cross? Of course it can, and that’s exactly what happened to Jesus. He was fully human and in the flesh He most certainly felt every ounce of excruciating pain with every hammer blow to the nails that held His human nature upon that cross.

So what’s going on in this passage then? Why does the bible use Jesus’s divine title while speaking of His human action?

Hopefully this answer will clear up many confusions for you. Jesus is one person, therefore whatever His divine nature does can be ascribed to Himself as the “person,” and whatever His human nature does can be ascribed to Himself as the “person,” who performed said action.

This is a very regularly used way of speaking. We do this all the time, if I were to ask you who is delivering the lecture tonight, you would not say Steven’s mouth delivered the lecture. Rather you would say Steven delivered it. Why? Because I am one person. Whatever any part of me does it can be ascribed to my personhood, when I kick a ball, I do not declare that my foot kicked it, I simply and clearly say I kicked a ball.

Anything any part of me does can be ascribed to my person and therefore anything that either nature of Christ Jesus does can be ascribed to the person of Christ. Whether referring to His divine title or His human title what you need to see in scripture is that the titles given to Jesus all refer to the 1 person of Jesus.

What you need to see in regards to Jesus, is when a title of Jesus is referred to as having done something that the nature we often connect to the title cannot do, then the title is simply standing to draw your attention to the person of Jesus who did it!

Here’s another example, the same way you would not say my fingers typed this lesson, even though that may be true, you do not (and scripture does not) have to explain what nature Jesus acted with in every circumstance. Because Jesus has 2 natures then anything either of those natures do can be ascribed to the person of Jesus, and the person of Jesus is given many titles. Some refer to His deity and some refer to His humanity. When either is being referred to it is up to us to think critically and see what nature is involved even over and against what title is being used. When the title does not line up with the nature being involved then count it as the person of Jesus being referred to and not that particular nature.

If you can grasp this concept it really becomes extremely helpful. Jesus’s human nature died on the cross for our sin, therefore we can say our Lord died for our sin, knowing full well that Jesus’s divine nature did not and cannot die, but that the person of Jesus whom we call our Lord, did most certainly in His human nature die for our sins and in the flesh He experienced this death. We are not incorrect to call Jesus our Lord, so when we are referring to the person of Jesus and not His divine nature we can say that our Lord died for our sins.

One caution we should take here is to not specifically ascribe to Jesus’s natures something that that particular nature could not do. If we say the Lord died for our sin we are not wrong, however if we were to say that Jesus’s divine nature died for our sin we would be in error. Using Lord as a title for the person of Christ is okay, and that’s why we see scripture do it.

Now that you’ve been taught, or if you previously understood this, then we need to be careful to not intentionally ascribe to one of the natures of Jesus something it could not do. This is why we should avoid saying things like God died for your sins. Jesus did die for the sins of the elect, and Jesus is God, however Jesus’s divine nature cannot die. Therefore saying God died for your sins would be incorrect. Let’s aim to think and speak properly—by that I mean technically accurate. Since Lord of Glory is a title given to Jesus then we can and are free to say our Lord or the Lord of glory gave His life on the cross. I hope that makes sense. Divinity did not die and cannot die. Christ took on a human nature to become the perfect sacrifice in place of the elect.

So we would not be correct to say that Jesus’s divine nature died on a cross, however we are correct to say the person of Jesus experienced death by crucifixion.

For your Bible reading, not that: The Scriptures are not required to declare in each and every circumstance which nature of Jesus acted. They refer to the person of Christ Jesus who is active no matter what nature is literally acting. This is because the person of Christ Jesus possesses 2 natures. Anything done by either nature is done by the 1 person of Jesus.

Passages on two natures:

**John 17:11-18 And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me.**

**I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.**

According to this passage Jesus was leaving the world and going to the Father. The Father had sent Jesus into this world but Jesus was going back. Jesus also sent those whom the Father had given unto Him to go out in to the world as well. So this sending and going that Jesus declares in these passages can only be referring to His human nature. One of the lessons we have previously covered was a lesson on the attributes of God.

One of those attributes is Omnipresence. Simply stated there is nowhere, no space that exists, where God is not. Well if Jesus is God and God is omnipresent then how can Jesus come “into” the world or go “out of the world?”

These types of terms would imply special limitations and therefore must be anthropomorphic in their use OR they are not referring to the divine nature of Jesus. Well in this particular passage the language is not anthropomorphic language. Jesus is most certainly referring to His human nature. But notice something that may be helpful for clarity, Jesus didn’t say “you sent my human nature into this world.” Jesus said you sent me. Jesus is referring to himself as a person. You see anything Jesus does, whether by His divine nature or by His human nature can be applied to the 1 person of Jesus because He has done it.

**Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

Jesus said “I am with you always.” Is it Jesus’s human nature or divine nature that will be with the believers as they are being sent out with this great commission? Well human nature cannot be everywhere at once (omnipresent) therefore Jesus was referring to His divine nature. Now again note that Jesus did not say to them “My divine nature will be with you always,” because this is not how we communicate in regard to our persons. What work must be done in reading a passage like this? Well we must consider the two natures that the person of Jesus possesses and think critically about which nature may be acting in the various passages.

Just think about this, Jesus prayed and declared that He was going away, shortly after His resurrection He declared that He’d be with them always. Jesus did go away and Jesus is with us always. One nature departed and is not with us presently the other nature cannot depart He is everywhere at all times. However, both natures belong to the person of Jesus and therefore whatever one nature does can be ascribed to the person who did it, namely Jesus.

Whatever can be said of the two natures of Christ Jesus can be attributed to His person because it is the person of Jesus acting through either nature. I hope that’s helpful to understanding the language the bible uses.

This understanding is probably the best way for us to see that the two natures of Christ are united and yet distinct. Remember: These two natures are not mixed, confused, or changed but are united without loss of separate identity, and they are inseparable.

The person of Christ Jesus unites these two natures without mixing, confusing, or changing the natures themselves. The natures are united in the singular person of Jesus however the natures do not lose their separate identity and yet they remain inseparable because the personhood of Christ cannot be divided.

Let me be clear, it is acceptable to discuss the difference of natures and what they can or cannot do, however we must never divide the person of Christ, He is one person with two natures and that is vitally important to understand. The person of Christ cannot be divided.

I’ll end with these thoughts. Jesus was fully human. He was not just fully human but He was fully human and sinless. The emotions and experiences Jesus went through here in the flesh were heightened and fully known to Him because He was not tainted or hardened in any way by sin. Have you ever thought you should be more saddened or upset by something happening in your life but weren’t? Of course all of us have been there and it is due to the hardening or jadedness that sin brings. Jesus not only experienced what we experience but He did not have this hardening or jadedness. He experienced these things fully, His heart ache over lost people was true and real. His love for people was not effected by sin it was more genuine and deep than we can comprehend now. His temptation by satan was deeper and harder because He took on all that satan could throw at Him and yet remained sinless. We never get the full brunt of the attack of the evil one. We give in far sooner than we realize but Jesus did not!

Church you have a faithful High Priest who knows your suffering in deeper ways than you yourself know it! Oh let this truth sink in, Jesus humbled Himself by taking on a human nature and marching to the cross for our sin. He experienced the fullness of the wrath of God on behalf of the elect. He did this even though He had the right as God to hold His divine authority, power, and glory! He, in His human nature, laid that down to fulfill the covenant of redemption willingly!

Let us worship this perfect Savior! The God-man Jesus Christ! We don’t deserve a Lord who took on flesh, who lived the perfect life we couldn’t live, who took the wrath of our sin, the wrath we deserved, all the way to bodily death on the cross. And yet He rose again from the dead and secured the salvation of the elect. That is why salvation is **by grace** through faith, because we were ill deserving of it. We could never have earned it but our eternal lives depend upon it. Do you see the beauty of grace in the work of Jesus on our behalf?! Church, let this truth change everything about you!

Let’s pray.