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Section: Doctrine of Christ (Christology)

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**HANDOUT 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.

* **What Is the Incarnation?**

The incarnation is the point in time when Christ Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary.

**Luke 1:30-35** And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” 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 borne will be called holy—the Son of God.

Prior to this point, Jesus was and always had been fully God. Jesus has eternally existed as God the Son. After this very point in time (at the incarnation), Jesus took on a Human Nature. Jesus remained and always will remain fully God, and from this point forward, He will also possess a fully human nature.

The incarnation is the point in history when Jesus took on a human nature, which He keeps forever after.

With that, in our study now, we are primarily looking at Jesus *once He came and took on flesh; that is, once He took on a human nature.* Prior to His coming in that way, He did not actually possess a human nature. He, as the answer tells us, was and is “eternally, fully divine.”

* **What Is the Hypostatic Union?**

“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.”

**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 united because Jesus is one person possessing both of these natures.

**1689 Confession of Faith**: The Son of God, the second person in the Holy Trinity, being very and eternal God, the brightness of the Father's glory, of one substance and equal with Him who made the world, who upholds and governs all things He has made, did, when the fullness of time was complete, take upon Him man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities of it, yet without sin; being conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit coming down upon her: and the power of the Most High overshadowing her; and so was made of a woman of the tribe of Judah, of the seed of Abraham and David according to the Scriptures; **so that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion; which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man.**

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

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* **Jesus Is One Person**

**Human Nature**: The general psychological characteristics, feelings, and behavioral traits of humankind, regarded as shared by all humans.

**Personhood**: The quality or condition of being an individual person.

As human beings, we possess the same nature and attributes 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.

Christ Jesus is one person with two natures. Nature and personhood are distinct, just like being and personhood are distinct.

This is why Jesus can have two distinct natures and yet have them united in His person.

When Jesus acts, He acts from one of His two natures. In the flesh, He is limited by what His human nature can do; in His divinity, He is limited by what His divine nature can do. One neat explanation is this: Could Jesus in His human nature sin? No, He could not. As fully human, His human nature possessed the ability to sin, but because of His person and the unity of both a divine nature and human nature in the person of Jesus, He could not sin. It can never be said of the person of Christ Jesus that He sinned or could be a sinner.

* **Jesus Is Fully God**

**John 1:1-3**

**John 1:14-18**

**John 1:19-31**

**Isaiah 40:3** A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

The Lord in Isaiah is in all capital letters referring to YHWH. John the Baptist declared that he himself was the one crying out about this “Lord” and then declares Jesus to be the one whom he himself was crying out about. Jesus is YHWH, Jesus is Lord!

**John 12:36b-41**

**Isaiah 6:1-10**

Isaiah saw the Lord on His throne, and in the previous John passage, John declares that the Lord whom Isaiah saw was Jesus.

**John 13:12-19**

**Isaiah 43:10-11**

**John 20:28** Thomas answered him “My Lord and my God!**”**

**I Corinthians 8:6** …one Lord, Jesus Christ …

**Hebrews 1:8** But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.”

**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.

**Isaiah 7:14 “**Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel*.”*

Immanuel literally means “God with us.” We see this prophecy fulfilled in Matthew 1:

**Matthew 1:21-23 “**She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

**John 10:22-33**

When Jesus declares that He and the Father are one, He is declaring to be God. The Jews knew this, and see their reaction: They picked up stones to kill Jesus.

Those who opposed Jesus knew that He declared Himself to be God!

**John 8:48-59**

**John 10:17-18 “**For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

**John 2:19-22** Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

No one ever raised himself from the dead. No human would have the capacity to do so.

**Matthew 8:23-27**

Human and yet divine. One moment, we see His human nature exhausted from healing many and so tired that He was sleeping while waves crashed over the boat; yet in the very next moment, His divine nature is exercising omnipotent power such as only God has.

Only God commands the wind and waves; only God could raise the human body of Christ from the dead.