

The Humanity of Christ

The following words are not found in Scripture. We use these words to express several complex ideas presented in Scripture. That is not to say that these definitions are perfect, but they are adequate for the present discussion.

I. BASIC DEFINITIONS

- A. Essence = That of Which Something or Someone Consists.
- B. Attributes = The Abilities Which Someone Possesses.
- C. Nature = Those Characteristics of Something or Someone that are True of Both Its Essence and Attributes.
- D. Person = A Nature Individualized and Endowed with Intellect and Volition (Determinative Will).

II. THE CONCEPT OF WILL

- A. The Word “Will” Refers to Two Widely Different Ideas.
- B. “Desirous Will” (Greek = *thelo/thelema*) Refers to the Wants and Wishes which Come from the Nature of a Thing. One Nature = One Desirous Will
- C. “Determinative Will” (Greek = *boulomai/boulema*) Refers to the Decision Making Capability of a Person. One Person = One Determinative Will.
- D. The Trinity consists of one nature with three persons; therefore, the Godhead has one desirous will and three determinative wills.

Several passages of Scripture speak of aspects of Christ’s humanity, often in operation during His earthly ministry. One aspect distinguishes His two desirous wills.

III. LUKE 22:42

- A. Christ’s Human Desirous Will (*thelema*) Desired Something Different than the Father’s.
- B. Christ’s Divine Desirous Will (*thelema* – Not Mentioned in the Passage) was the Same as the Father’s because He Shared the Same Divine Nature.
- C. The Father (as an Individual Person) Could have Willed (*boulomai*) that the Cup Pass from Christ, but He Didn’t.
- D. God the Father and God the Son share one desirous will belonging to divine nature, however...
- E. Christ also had a human desirous will belonging to His unfallen human nature which desired different things than the divine desirous will.

IV. LUKE 1:35 (SA MATTHEW 1:20)

- A. The Holy Spirit Came Upon Mary to Produce the Human Embryo. No Human Person was Involved.
- B. The Most High, God the Father, Overshadowed Mary to produce a Perfect Human Body.
- C. The “Holy One Who is to be Born” (NKJV) is literally “The Holy Thing Being Born.”

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- D. Mary did not produce a human person, only a perfect human body.
- E. The Second Person, God the Son, did not enter the human body until it was complete.

Christ's humanity is directly related to the preparation of His physical body as a sacrifice. As a result of having a perfect physical body, Christ's ministry as High Priest was possible.

V. HEBREWS 10:1-10

- A. The Mosaic Law, since its sacrifices needed to be repeated, could not bring an individual to maturity. If they could, they would have ceased to be offered.
- B. The Mosaic sacrifices only brought a remembrance of sin, because the blood (death) of animals cannot remove sin.
- C. Therefore a different kind of sacrifice was necessary, and the nature of this sacrifice is expressed in a conversation between the Son and the Father at the incarnation (Hebrews 10:5-7). The Son had to become human for such a sacrifice to be made.
- D. The conversation between the Son and the Father is found in Hebrews 10:8-10.
- E. As perfect, sinless man Jesus Christ represents sinful men to the Godhead.

VII. HEBREWS 4:15

- A. A "High Priest" is a Mediator between God and Man.
- B. A High Priest is Always a Man. (sa Heb. 5:1)
- C. In His Humanity, Christ was Tempted "In All Kinds of Things."
- D. Christ Was "Apart from (without) Sin."
- E. Christ is the perfect mediator as high priest, because, being apart from sin, He did not need to sacrifice in reference to His own sins.

VIII. HEBREWS 9:24-28

- A. As "High Priest" Christ has Entered into the Heavenly Sanctuary.
- B. He Appears in the Presence of God as a Mediator.
- C. He Only Offered Himself Once Because, As the Perfect Sinless Sacrifice, His Offering was Sufficient for All Persons.
- D. Christ has "Put Away Sin by The Sacrifice of Himself."
- E. He will Appear in the Future "Apart from Sin."

VI. 1 TIMOTHY 2:5

- A. "There is One God" Refers to the One Essence.
- B. "Mediator" Implies Three Individuals Involved in a Transaction.
- C. A Mediator Cannot Mediate for Himself, But is a Representative of Another.
- D. "The Man Christ Jesus" Indicates that Christ's Humanity Allows His Mediation to be Meaningful.