

The Dual Nature of the Lord Jesus Christ

In I Timothy 3:16, the Bible makes this statement. Notice it does NOT say “.....and without controversy, great is the mystery of the Holy Trinity.” Notice it does NOT say, “God was manifested in three persons, Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost.” The entire 66 books of the Bible know NOTHING about a mysterious three-person Godhead. As a matter of fact, the word “trinity” is found nowhere in the entire Bible.

The word “incarnation” means “the act of giving divinity a human body or an earthly form.” It is the uniting of the divine nature and the human nature in one body. There are many Scriptures that prove the humanity of Jesus. (Matt. 4:2, 8:24, Jn. 4:6, 11:35, Lk. 22:44) In Luke 2:52, Jesus was subject to the same physical laws of growth and development as we are. In I Corinthians 15:3, we see proof positive of His humanity. It is not enough to say that Jesus was a man. This man was also God and was as genuinely God as He was genuinely a man. Remember, there is no lie as dangerous as a half-truth. In Romans 9:5, the Scripture says this. This one verse tells us that Jesus was flesh and that at the same time, He was God over all and blessed forever.

Notice Isaiah 43:10. This Scripture states “.....before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me....: Yet we read in Philippians 2:6 that Jesus was in the form of God and equal with God. In other words, before Jesus was born with His human nature, He was the divine visible equation of the invisible God. He was originally in the form of God and thought it not robbery to be equal with God. Philippians 2:7 tells us that He was made in the likeness of men. This being, who prior to His physical birth, was in the very form of God. He was the full equation in a majestic form of the invisible God. This being, God, at His incarnation, took upon Himself the likeness of men. He assumed human nature at His incarnation but did not cease to be God. Now, in addition to what He always was, Jehovah God, He was in possession of an assumed human nature.

When we read the Scriptures, we must ask ourselves this question: is Jesus acting as a man or is He acting as God? In Him, divinity and humanity were fused, but not confused. He could talk as Almighty God or He could talk as a human. He could act as Almighty God or He could act as a human. For example, when He walked on the sea, He was acting as God. When He walked beside the sea, He was acting as a man. At times, as a man, Jesus grew weary, but as God, He never grows weary. (Is. 40:28) The key to understanding the “mystery” of the Godhead is the dual nature of Jesus. Let’s examine the Scriptures.

In John 10:30, Jesus said “I and my Father are one”. Notice Jesus did NOT say “I and my Father are two.” In Matthew 27:46, we read how the man Jesus as He was being crucified, cried out “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?” God did NOT forsake the Lord Jesus Christ. (Jn. 16:32, Heb. 9:14) The Holy Ghost was there inside the body of Jesus until the breath of life left his body. The Holy Ghost never left that body until He had offered full and complete sacrifice for your sin and mine. (I Jn. 3:16)

Why did Jesus cry out, “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?” The answer is simple. Isaiah 59:2 gives us the answer. Did He not say that sins and iniquities separate man from God? Is that not what sin does? Until that moment on the cross, Jesus did not have sin! He was holy, blameless, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners. He did no sin. He knew no sin, and He was no sin. Up to that point, He did not know what sin upon Him was or what it felt like.

At Calvary, He became the sin-bearer. Your sins and mine were gathered up and placed upon Him who knew no sin. Because He became a man bearing sin, He had to feel as any man feels under sin. Because Jesus was human, He actually felt God forsaken. This meant that sin touched His mortal flesh and at that point, He felt God forsaken, although He was not actually God forsaken. The dual nature of the Lord Jesus Christ explains this and completely harmonizes with I Timothy 3:16.

In conclusion, understanding the dual nature of Jesus Christ is an important key to understanding the Godhead. When reading Scriptures regarding the Earthly ministry of Jesus, simply ask yourself this question: Was Jesus acting or speaking as a man or as the Almighty God? Because divinity became incarnate, we can easily see His humanity throughout the New Testament, yet, at the same time, we can see His Divinity. As a man, Jesus bore our sins and died on the Cross at Calvary. As God, He rose from the dead and is alive forevermore. Now we can have the victory over sin and death.

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