

THREE POSSIBILITIES

A Man Approved of God

An Excerpt

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Basically there are three possibilities

In considering all this basically there are three possibilities. Sometimes it helps to think about the possible alternatives. Either Jesus had two minds or consciousness' in one body, or he was God in disguise, or he emptied himself of his divine powers before he came. Let's consider each of these possibilities.

The First Possibility: God the Son, the second person of the Trinity, came to our world to inhabit a human body. In doing this he was actually two persons in one body, God and a man. He had two consciousness', two intellects and two wills in one body. He was continually torn between acting as the Almighty and acting as a man. His divine self and his human self lived together inside of him and if there was a conflict, the divine side which was stronger would win.

The Second Possibility: God came to earth in a human body disguised as a man. So it was really simply God in a human body. He would purposely act human in the appropriate manner at every stage of his human life. When his body was an infant, he acted like an infant. When his body was twelve years old, he acted as if he were twelve years old. Even when he became grown he would act like he did not know things so that he would fit in better. Essentially, he was putting on a act for our benefit and having the experience of living in a human body. Strangely enough this belief is the one that has dominated the church for centuries.

The Third Possibility: He emptied himself. This is true humanity. He is no less God for doing it. As a matter of fact, he is proven to be even more loving and merciful because he voluntarily laid aside his Godly powers in order to become one of us. His character is still the character of God. He is love and goodness and without sin. But he is subject to our weaknesses and has to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to perform supernatural acts. He exercises faith in order to do these things. The Son agreed with the Father to become a man and to submit to the limitations of a man. He did not change his character. He was still goodness, holiness and truth. But he did give up his powers; he did not know everything, he did not have all power and he could only be in one place at one time in his human body. Since Jesus in this self-limited state was completely dependent on the Holy Spirit to have supernatural knowledge and power, he functioned as he expects us to function. In things not told to Jesus by the Holy Spirit he had to learn and grow just as we do. He matured as a person. Also, due to the agreement that he had with the Father before coming in the flesh, he could not change the rules once his human life started. He was locked in until after he died when he got it all back and more. Yes, more, because he has special honor as a man which he did not have as God before he came. Resurrected he is Lord both as God and as a man. This third view is definitely the best one. Not only because it sees God as more honest, but it enables Jesus to truly understand us and to show us how to function.