

The Two Natures Of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ had two natures but was only one person – the hypostatic union fully man and fully God.

In theological terms this is derived from the Greek word translated “*person*” in **Hebrews 1:3** “*hupōstasis*” which essentially means substance.

Hebrews 1:1-3 [King James] “*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*”

This is a clear description of the relationship between God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son, both being Persons within the unity of the triune nature of God, along with the Holy Spirit.

It is assuring to realise that the finite human mind can never understand a God that is greater than us and who dwells in the spirit world while we are limited to a physical world.

So we shouldn't be surprised that we cannot comprehend all the workings of the Person of Jesus the Christ.

This article will bring together what we see in the Christian Bible on the subject but we can never fully explain it.

1 John 4:1-3 [NIV] “*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognise the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*”

Jesus Christ is presented as a single Person who has come in the flesh from God the Father.

Revelation 3:21 [NIV] “*To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.*”

Reference is made here to Jesus Christ's perfect life, on a throne with perfect God the Father.

His overcoming physical death by a resurrection back from death and an ascension back to His throne in heaven.

The Son of God, Jesus Christ living as a human being, confirmed by God the Father. [**Matthew 3:17; Matthew 17:5; Luke 1:30-33**]

The second Person of the Triune God was born a physical man, lived a perfect human life and died on our behalf.

There is no room in scripture for Jesus being a separate Person to the Son of God.

These two natures of Jesus Christ were brought together into One Person, providing Jesus with physical and divine powers without conflict.

Matthew 17:1-2 [NIV] “*After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.*”

This is a very clear example where Jesus the Son of Man had complete control over His deity.

John 18:5-6 [NIV] *“‘Jesus of Nazareth,’ they replied. ‘I am he,’ Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) When Jesus said, ‘I am he,’ they drew back and fell to the ground.”*

As Jesus declared His divinity the men confronting Him were struck down by its power, authority and most likely His glory.

We must remember that Jesus was God before He became human.

John 1:1-4, 14 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.” ... “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

We must remember that Jesus was God first and that He then took on humanity as an addition to His deity.

Jesus as a child must have known His Godhead for you cannot put God in a position of not knowing He is God, that would be letting His humanity take over His deity.

The Christian Bible clearly shows that Jesus was fully God and fully human without one dominating the other.

John 17:5 [NIV] *“And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”*

The man Jesus Christ asks God the Father to glorify Him again with the measure of glory He had before He became human.

Paul mentioned this reduced glory in his letter to the Church in Philippi.

Philippians 2:5-8 [NIV] *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: **Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross!**”*

Jesus was willing to reduce this position of glory so that He could more completely relate to the human beings that He had come to save.

This would explain the situations when Jesus, the human, did **not** have or need to read the minds of those He was communicating with.

This union of two natures in Jesus Christ was necessary for our salvation.

The need for this reconciliation is shown in the very early years of human existence recorded in Genesis in the Christian Bible.

The rebellious sin of Eve and Adam forced God to banish them from the Garden of Eden so they could **not** take of another tree in the garden, the tree that would give them eternal life of continual sin with all its pain and suffering. [**Genesis 3:1-6; Genesis 3:16-19**]

God indicated how this gap between Him and humanity was going to be bridged. [**Genesis 3:21**]

To conform with scripture these skins had to be the result of a lamb that God chose to sacrifice to cover sin, that is Jesus Christ the human Son of Man because Jesus Christ was human as well as God, He could shed blood, His physical life. [John 1:29, 35]

Hebrews 9:22 [NIV] *“In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”*

Forgiveness of sin only comes with the shedding of blood, ours or that of Jesus Christ as a substitute for our death.

Leviticus 17:11 [NIV] *“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.”*

Blood needed for the atonement, covering of our sinful life.

Jesus in His deity could not die, nor could He shed His blood.

But because of His deity Jesus could live a perfect godly life that was worth more than all the humans whom He had created and sustained.

So both natures were needed for the perfect plan of salvation and redemption to be effective.

These two natures of Jesus Christ are eternal –

John 1:14 [NIV] *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

God did **not** just come to live in the flesh for a short period of time, God in Jesus Christ the Son of God, the second person in the Triune God, became flesh.

God incorporated human nature into His eternal being.

In the incarnation humanity has been permanently incorporated into the Godhead. [**Luke 1:16-35**]

At the virgin conception God the Father acquired an identity in Jesus Christ His Son and the Holy Spirit that He will retain for the rest of eternity. [**Acts 7:56; Revelation 1:12-18; Revelation 14:14**]

Acts 1:11 [NIV] *“‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.’”*

We know that Jesus will return in just the same way as He came the first time.

Upon His ascension, Jesus was **not** deified, but rather He received His full glorification once again as He had requested of His Father. [**John 17:5**]

Some prophecies concerning the Messiah, Jesus Christ our Saviour, will be eternal.

Psalms 110:4 [NIV] *“The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: ‘You are a priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek.’”*

Melchizedek is Jesus Christ our eternal High Priest.

Isaiah 9:6-7 [NIV] *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on **and for ever**. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.”*

The reign of Jesus Christ on earth will be forever.

Hebrews 7:15-17, 23-27 [NIV] *“And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. For it is declared: ‘You are a priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek.’” ... “Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives for ever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need, one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”*

Jesus our eternal High Priest.

Let us accept Jesus Christ the Son of God and the Son of Man as our only Saviour [Acts 4:12] and show our gratitude by yielding to Him as our Creator God, Saviour and High Priest.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

This is how we can show our gratitude in more than just words.