

Let's Discuss...The Trinity

PART 4_Why Does Jesus' Deity (& Humanity!) Matter?



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Scriptures mentioned:

The genealogy of Jesus
Matthew 1:1-17 & Luke 3:23-38

*In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth...
And God said, "Let there be
light," and there was light.*
Genesis 1:1 & 3, NIV

*The Word became flesh and
blood, and moved into the
neighborhood.*
John 1:14a MSG

*And the Word became flesh
and dwelt among us...*
John 1:14a NKJV

*"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God
Almighty, Who was and is and
is to come!"*
Revelation 4:8c NKJV

*He is the Holy Spirit, who leads
into all truth...But you know
Him, because He lives with you
now and later will be in you.*
John 14:17a & c NLT

*Yet they cannot redeem
themselves from death
by paying a ransom to God.
Redemption does not come so
easily, for no one can ever pay
enough to live forever
and never see the grave.*
Psalm 49:7-9 NLT

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Summary

What difference does it make that we believe in both the deity and humanity of Jesus? We chat about how His life and resurrection make a way for the forgiveness of our sins and new life in Christ, and the fact that His walking on earth as a human gave us a model that we can emulate our lives after.

Definitions

deity: a supernatural being, generally considered to be sacred, worthy of worship, and able to exert power and authority over aspects of the world

Let's Discuss...

- What characteristics and acts of Jesus do we see in the Bible that make Him unique from all others? Both other humans and other gods?
- Nohora says that if she didn't believe in the deity of Jesus, salvation would not exist for her. Do you believe the deity of Jesus is central to His ability to gift us salvation?
- Equally important to the belief in Jesus' deity is the belief in His humanity. In The Screwtape Letters, CS Lewis creates a fictional story about Screwtape, a high-ranking demon, who writes letters to train his nephew, Wormwood, in how to tempt and corrupt a human soul. In this story, Jesus is depicted as their Enemy. Speaking about God, Screwtape writes to Wormwood, "Remember, He is not, like you, a pure spirit. Never having been a human (Oh that abominable advantage of the Enemy's!) you don't realize how enslaved they are to the pressure of the ordinary." Here Lewis is highlighting the advantage of God having become human through Jesus.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin."

Hebrews 4:15 NIV

- » How does Jesus' humanity impact your faith and relationship with Him? Do you find it simple or difficult to reconcile His identity as both fully God and fully man?
- What kind of emotions do you tend to think of Jesus as having displayed? What does it mean for us to know that He felt a full array of emotions?
- We see in Matthew 26:36-37 that Jesus invited three close friends to be with Him as He experienced deep anguish. Who are the people in your life who you allow in your inner circle, who you are transparent and vulnerable with when experiencing deep emotions?

Side note: Read on in Matthew 26:36-46...

- » Would you say Jesus' friends were really "there for Him" in this experience?
- » How did Jesus respond to them in these moments?
- » As we follow the example of Christ, how does this story inspire you to respond to your friends, even in times when they might disappoint you?

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Scriptures mentioned:

Yet God, in His grace, freely makes us right in His sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when He held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past...
Romans 3:24-25 NLT

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form...
Colossians 2:9 NIV

Abraham didn't focus on his own impotence and say, "It's hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child." Nor did he survey Sarah's decades of infertility and give up. He didn't tiptoe around God's promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what He had said. That's why it is said, "Abraham was declared fit before God by trusting God to set him right." But it's not just Abraham; it's also us! The same thing gets said about us when we embrace and believe the One who brought Jesus to life when the conditions were equally hopeless. The sacrificed Jesus made us fit for God, set us right with God.
Romans 4:19-25 MSG

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Let's Pray...

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Romans 4:19-25 MSG

- Let's express our gratitude to Jesus for the meaning we find in both his deity and humanity. Do you have any seemingly hopeless situations in your life? Don't "tiptoe around", "asking cautiously skeptical questions". Bring them straight to God, with faith that just as He desired to be able to relate to us as humans and set us right through Jesus, He desires to work in the details of our lives.

Let's Go Deeper...

- **What does it mean that Jesus Christ conquered death?** by gotquestions.org [article]
- **Mere Christianity** by C.S. Lewis [book]
- **Let's Discuss...Jesus PART 2_ Was Jesus a Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?** by The Discipleship Project [video]
- **Guide to the Book of John** by BibleProject [article & videos]
- **Classic Christianity** by Bob George [book]
- **The Emotional Life of Jesus** by Dr. Andy Tix/Psychology Today [article]
- **How to Feel Your Emotions with Jesus** by Bill Gaultiere/Soul Shepherding [article]
- **The Screwtape Letters** by C.S. Lewis [book]
- **Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament** by Christopher Wright [book]

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Scriptures mentioned:

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

John 8:58 ESV

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me..."

John 14:6 NIV

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; He has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor..."

Luke 4:18a TLB

Feed and shepherd God's flock—His church, purchased with His own blood...

Acts 20:28b NLT

Since we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be raised to life as He was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with Him. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and He will never die again. Death no longer has any power over Him. When He died, He died once to break the power of sin. But now that He lives, He lives for the glory of God. So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:5-11 NLT

He went on a little farther and bowed with His face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Matthew 26:39 NLT

Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and He said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and He became anguished and distressed.

Matthew 26:36-37 NLT

However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way...

Acts 24:14a NIV

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