

Truly Man: Christ's Human Nature

I. Four statements must be understood and affirmed in order to attain a complete biblical picture of the person of Jesus Christ:¹

1. Jesus Christ is **fully and completely *divine***.
2. Jesus Christ is **fully and completely *human***.
3. The divine and human **natures of Christ are *distinct***.
4. The divine and human natures of Christ are completely ***united in one person***.

II. Truly Man

A. Passages directly stating he was truly human

1. Denying his humanity is the spirit of the antichrist (1 John 4:2-3; 2 John 7)
2. In Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily (Col. 2:9)
3. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14)
4. He had to be made like us in every respect, but without sin (Heb. 2:17)

B. He fully experienced life as a human

1. **Born** (Gal. 4:4, Luke 2:6-7)
2. **Hunger** (Matt. 4:2)
3. **Thirst** (John 4:6-7)
4. **Fatigue** (Mark 4:38)
5. **Distress** (John 12:27, Mark 14:32-34)
6. **Temptation** (Matt. 4:1-11, Heb. 4:15)
7. **He grew physically and learned** (Luke 2:40, 52)
8. **Grew in spiritual strength/faith** (Hebrews 5:7-9. He never sinned [Heb. 4:15], but learned obedience as a man.)
9. **Hardships** (rejection, slander, being misunderstood, demands of others, loss, injustice, pain)
10. **Physical death** (Luke 23:46)

III. How did the eternal Son of God become truly man?

A. The virgin conception and incarnation (Luke 1:26-35, Matt. 1:18)

1. Incarnation – Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the “divine nature of the eternal Son was miraculously joined together with a created human nature in the womb of the virgin Mary.”²
2. Virgin conception (Matt. 1:18)

B. Why this matters

1. Jesus is conceived without the inherited guilt and sinful nature that all of Adam's descendants have.
2. Deity and humanity are united in 1 person

¹ Taken from the ESV Study Bible.

² Bruce Ware, *The Man Christ Jesus*, 15.

IV. Did the Son of God lose His divine attributes when He came as a man?

A. Jesus is God: “in the form of God” (Phil. 2:6)

1. “In the form of God”
2. “Equality with God”

B. He didn’t consider equality with God a thing “to be grasped” (Phil. 2:6b)

1. Does this mean he ceased being God? (No!)
2. He did not insist on holding on to the privileges of his position by refusing to become a man.

C. Jesus is man: “the form of a servant” (Phil. 2:7)

1. What does “emptied himself” mean?
 - a. He didn’t pour out his divine attributes
 - b. Rather, he became a servant (the phrase “by taking the form of a servant” is the explanation of “emptied himself”)
 - c. *He doesn’t divest himself of deity, rather deity descends by adding humanity.*
 - d. So, in saying he “emptied himself,” it does not mean he lost some of his divinity.
2. An illustration: The King who took on the form of a beggar (see also 2 Cor. 8:9).³

D. He humbled himself so he could obey to the point of death on a cross (v. 8)

E. Application

1. Marvel at the reality of what God did for us in Christ – Meditate on 2 Cor. 8:9, Phil 2:5-8.
2. “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...” – humility, preferring others’ interests (Phil 2:3-4)

V. Does Jesus still have a body?

A. Jesus not only died as a man; he was raised bodily (Luke 24:2-6, 36-43; Jn. 20:25-27).

B. Jesus, as the firstfruits of our resurrection, is still a man (1 Cor. 15).

³ From Bruce Ware’s book *The Man Christ Jesus*, 22-24.