

Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior

1. *There is positively no question that the Scriptures identify Jesus Christ as God, nor is there any question that Christ Himself claimed to be God (though it is very common to hear that He did not).*
2. Having determined that the Scriptures are reliable, there are only so many options in how to treat Jesus' clear claims to divinity: a) He was telling the truth; b) He was lying; c) He was a lunatic (He thought He was telling the truth, but was deranged).
3. The evidence points to Christ telling the truth.
4. Please consider the first two handouts, "Twelve Known Historical Facts Concerning The Resurrection Events" and "Which Theory Best Fits The Data About The Resurrection Claims?"

[see the first two attachments]

5. Now, the most important thing to know about the Person of Christ (who He IS) is the fact that He has TWO NATURES. He has a divine nature and a human nature. This is called THE _____ UNION.
6. Definition: *"The personal union is the conjunction of the two natures, divine and human, subsisting in the one [person] of the Son of God, producing a mutual and indissoluble communion of both natures."* (Hollaz)
7. The Bible on Christ's DIVINE nature:
 - A. Christ has the names of God: John 1:1 & Matthew 16:16. At John 20:28 He is called God.
 - B. Christ has the attributes of God: e.g. eternity, John 8:58 (see Exodus 3 to compare).
 - C. Christ has the works of God: e.g. creation, Colossians 1:16-17.
 - D. Christ has the majesty, glory and honor of God: e.g. Philippians 2:9ff.
8. The Bible on Christ's HUMAN nature:
 - A. Human names: e.g. 1st Timothy 2:5
 - B. Human flesh and blood: e.g. Hebrews 2:14
 - C. Human descent: Matthew 1:1ff and Luke 3:23
 - D. Human conception in the womb: Luke 1:42

- E. Human parts: e.g. John 2:21 & Luke 24:39
 - F. Human emotions: e.g. Mark 3:5 & Mark 14:34
 - G. Human physical needs: e.g. Matthew 4:2 & John 19:28
 - H. Human suffering and death: e.g. Matthew 27:46 & John 19:30
9. The Biblical teaching on Christ's two natures (the personal union) must be kept pure. The doctrine of Christ's person is essential to our being saved (this is the enormous practical significance to what we have just covered):
- A. If Christ were not God, He would have no _____ to save all people.
 - B. If Christ were not human, He could not be our _____.

Note: If we in any way compromise one of the two natures in the one person of Christ, then there can be no salvation from sin and death (there can be no Gospel).

10. Four major heresies (false teachings) have tried to undermine the two natures of Christ and these are false teachings that persist to this day:
- A. Arianism: Compromised Jesus' divinity.
 - B. Apollinarianism: Compromised Jesus' humanity.
 - C. Eutychianism: Combined the two natures so as to mix them and create a third product.
 - D. Nestorianism: Separated the two natures so as to practically make two persons.
11. The Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D. declared) in accordance with Biblical doctrine: ***"We confess one and the same Jesus Christ, the Son and Lord only-begotten, in two natures without mixture, without change, without division, without separation."***
12. Test yourself to ensure that you understand all of this so far: Answer the question without using "Jesus" or "Christ": "WHO died on the cross?" See Acts 20:28.

The Work of Christ

13. Through the incarnation (God taking on our human flesh), Christ knew – according to His human nature – two (2) distinct states in His life (note: the two "states" are not to be confused with the two "natures" above).
- A. State of humiliation: Christ willingly refrained from full use of divine majesty and power.
 - B. State of exaltation: Christ's divine majesty and power unrestrained, fully shown.

14. The state of humiliation was completely voluntary. Christ willed it. See Philippians 2:5-8, which includes the words “made Himself.” He literally “humbled Himself” by His own choosing!
15. These are stages of Christ’s humiliation:
 - A. Conception and Birth from the Virgin Mary: Luke 1:35, 42 & 2:1-14.
 - B. His day-to-day life on earth. Luke 2:52 says, “Jesus *increased* in wisdom and stature.” He enters into His public ministry at about age 30 (Luke 3:23).
 - C. His suffering, death and burial. The death of Christ was an absolutely VOLUNTARY act on His part. Jesus WILLED to die.
16. Note that Jesus’ state of humiliation ended at His BURIAL.
17. During the state of humiliation, Christ saved us from sin and gave us eternal life through:
 - A. His ACTIVE obedience.

AND

- B. His PASSIVE obedience.
- 18. See third attachment on “Declared Righteous.”**
19. Take note of the illustration at bottom right that shows the great exchange that took place to save us.
20. The state of exaltation: In His divine *and* human nature Christ now and forever makes full use of His divine majesty and power, being present everywhere and upholding and governing all things.
21. There are stages of Christ’s exaltation:
 - A. After physical death, He immediately -- according to His spirit – goes to heaven (Luke 23:46).
 - B. On the third day – immediately after His bodily resurrection – Christ descends into hell (1st Peter 3:18-20). He does not do this to suffer since He is now exalted, but He goes to do what (according to 1st Peter)?
 - C. The resurrection from the tomb. Literal, physical, bodily; the same body crucified and buried!

- D. The forty days and several appearances; His ascension (Acts 1:9); His session at the right hand of the Father; His second coming; and His eternal reign in the new heaven and earth.
22. The Crucifixion: This is most important in regards to the work of Christ. Through the cross of Jesus we are JUSTIFIED (made right with God).
- 23. See the fourth attachment called “The Lord has laid upon Him our sins”**
24. The Christian meaning is in a legal or courtroom sense (forensic or imputed), where the judge (God) makes the declaration that you are “right with Him” on account of Christ. This is entirely OUTSIDE of you.
25. Once again, God DECLARES the innocent (Jesus) as guilty and the guilty (us) as innocent. And why? Because Christ willingly gave Himself for the sins of the world on the cross!
26. We further understand this justification in light of the concept “vicarious.” This means that Jesus was our SUBSTITUTE. The concept of substitution is crucial in the Bible (see Isaiah 53, 2 Cor. 5:21 and Gal. 3:13).
27. Through the cross of Jesus, we receive ATONEMENT for our sin. Atonement means _____. In the eyes of God, Jesus covers us with His _____.
28. The significance of blood: Leviticus 17:11. To be covered with blood is to be covered with _____. Think of the Passover in the Old Testament. This applies even now and is why through the blood of Christ, God’s wrath passes over us!
29. Finally, this saving work of Christ is UNIVERSAL (for all people). See 1st. John 2:2.

Catechism Review: pages 120-146.