

Why Does That Matter To Me?

Doctrine #4

'We believe that in the Person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.'

'The Deity of Christ sits at the pinnacle of controversy and belief concerning the Christian faith' (Millard Erickson)

Three Significant Heresies

A. Ebionites

This came from a rather obscure group who called themselves as Ebionites – which means the poor ones. One of their beliefs that caught on somewhat was that they regarded Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah while rejecting his divinity and insisted on the necessity of following Jewish law and rites. They are slaves to old testament teaching.

B. Arianites

The Arian concept of Christ is that the Son of God did not always exist, but was created by—and is therefore distinct from—God the Father.

C. Functional Christology

Emphasizes what Jesus did rather than who He was. He was someone who acted on behalf of God not someone who was God.

Seven evidences that Jesus knew He was God in the flesh.

Dr. Millar Erikson

1. Matthew 13:41 – Jesus says I will send my angels
2. Mark 2:5 - He claimed to be able to go back in a person's past and forgive sins
3. Matthew 25:31-46 – Jesus speaks of Himself as a judge of the world
4. Mark 2:27,28) – Jesus refers to Himself as 'Lord of the Sabbath'
5. John 3:13, John 8:58 – Jesus claims to be eternal ('before Abraham was I am')
6. John 19:7 – Jesus is charged with claiming 'To be the Son of God' – which he never denied. (Daniel and John)
7. Matthew 26:63- 'Tell us if you are the Christ.' 'Yes it is as you say – but I tell you in the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming with the clouds of heaven'

The Humanity of Jesus

Jesus the Great High Priest

Hebrew 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 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. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

But yet!

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

So how did it work? How could God live in a man's body and remain completely God and completely man?

Philippians 2: 5-11 NIV	Philippians 2: 5-11 Amplified Bible
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>John 10</u></p> <p><u>25</u>Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, <u>26</u>but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. <u>27</u>My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <u>28</u>I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. <u>29</u>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. <u>30</u>I and the Father are one."</p> <p><u>31</u>Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, <u>32</u>but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"</p>	<p>5 Let this same attitude <i>and</i> purpose <i>and</i> [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:]</p> <p>6 Who, although being essentially one with God <i>and</i> in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped <i>or</i> retained,</p> <p>7 But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the <u>guise</u> of a servant (slave), in that He became <u>like</u> men <i>and</i> was born a human being.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>John 10</u></p> <p>25 Jesus answered them, I have told you so, yet you do not believe Me [you do not trust Me <i>and</i> rely on Me]. <u>The very works that I do by the power of My Father</u> <i>and</i> in My Father's name bear witness concerning Me [they are My credentials and evidence in support of Me].</p> <p>26 But you do not believe <i>and</i> trust <i>and</i> rely on Me because you do not belong to My fold [you are no sheep of Mine].</p> <p>27 The sheep that are My own hear <i>and</i> are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow Me.</p> <p>28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never lose it <i>or</i> perish throughout the ages. [To all eternity they shall never by any means be destroyed.] And no one is able to snatch them out of My hand.</p> <p>29 My Father, Who has given them to Me, is greater <i>and</i> mightier than all [else]; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of the Father's hand.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">30 I and the Father are One.</p> <p>31 Again the Jews [d]brought up stones to stone Him.</p> <p>32 Jesus said to them, My Father has enabled Me to do many good deeds. [I have shown many acts of mercy in your presence.] For which of these do you mean to stone Me?</p>

So Jesus Christ is truly and properly man and truly and properly God.

So, why does that matter to me?