

Explaining Christianity

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Part 3: Explaining Jesus



Challenge Question: Was Jesus just a human being like us, or was he really God? If Jesus was only human, why do billions of people worship him as God—and if he was only God, why did he get tired, hungry, sad, and even die? Christians say he was both God and human but what evidence is there to prove that?

A. Central Scripture: John 1:1-14 NIV

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome¹ it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

B. The Dilemma

The central claim of Christianity is that Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully human. This is known as the *hypostatic union*. It can feel confusing—how can one person have two complete natures? Yet Scripture presents this reality plainly. Jesus walked the earth in a real human body, experiencing weakness, emotion, and temptation. But He also spoke and acted with the authority and identity of God Himself. Understanding this truth is not just a

theological exercise—it affects our salvation, how we pray, how we see suffering, and how we relate to Christ today.

C. Common Objections About Jesus

- “If Jesus was God, He couldn’t really be human.”
- “If Jesus was human, He couldn’t really be God.”
- “The Bible never says Jesus is God—only that He was a good teacher.”
- “The idea of one person with two natures is too confusing—therefore it must not be true.”

D. Discussion Questions

1. Did Jesus experience real human emotions and limitations like we do? (Hint: John 4:6; John 11:35; Matthew 4:2). Explain your answer.
2. Did Jesus face temptation the way we do? (Hint: Hebrews 4:15). Explain your answer.

3. Did Jesus claim and demonstrate divine authority? (Hint: John 10:30; John 8:58; Mark 2:5-7). Explain your answer.

4. Did Jesus receive worship that only God should receive? (Hint: Matthew 14:33; John 20:28; Revelation 5:12-13). Explain your answer.

E. Summary

The hypostatic union—Jesus being fully God and fully man—is a sacred mystery, but not a contradiction. In His humanity, Jesus became one of us so He could suffer, experience life, and die in our place. In His deity, His sacrifice holds infinite power to save anyone who believes. If He was only human, He could not save us. If He was only God, He could not represent us. In Jesus Christ, God came near—God became man to bring mankind back to God. This truth is the centerpiece of the Christian faith and the heart of our salvation.

Where to Find More Information

- The Holy Bible, New Living Translation (NLT)
- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*
- Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*
- Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ*
- N.T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God*
- William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith*
- John Stott, *Basic Christianity*