

THE HUMANITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

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I. Introduction:

A. The Subject:

The Lord's Person is of the greatest possible interest to the Christian due to the vital relationship that is ours with God through Him. Much of our time has been spent in the theological arena in demonstrating His deity...since this is the area most often challenged by cultists, skeptics, et al. His humanity is nearly forgotten (sometimes) in the stress of the emphasis on His full divinity. When this happens it deprives the church of the real picture of the Redeemer and diminishes the appreciation in the life of the believer for the Son of God-

1. Definition: By the Lord's humanity we mean the fact that the incarnate Son of God was a true human being with a reasoning (rational) soul, possessed of two natures--being both Divine and human.
2. Extreme notions:
 - a. To some, the humanity has become the total Jesus. This is particularly true in less evangelical circles where His deity is simply dismissed...but even in some aspects of the "Jesus culture" his humanity has become so much the object of adoration as to virtually dismiss the Divine nature.
 - b. On the other hand, there is seen a tendency to deny reality to the humanity...in the fear that it may take something from the deity. Those who feel this way see the emotions of Jesus, etc., as mere display for the benefit of later believers.

Both of these extremist notions sacrifice the essential truth of the Lord's Person and in so doing come up with a Saviour who is less than the Bible calls for. The challenge is not to over-particularize on one hand and (or) not to minimize on the other.

B. The Question in Historical Perspective...briefly

The Lord's Person has been one of those issues of great concern in the church since the earliest records. We must remember that as the Revelation was unfolded and an understanding of theology developed, many of these questions were thought through from a starting point of nearly nothing. We may profit from the discussions of the past and need neither be limited by them nor made to feel that they were unimportant in the first place. We must survey the matter quickly thought...or we will be here all day.

1. The Problem: the mystery of the Christ-Person.
2. Early attempted resolutions and errors: