

Sunday, December 27, 2020—He Knows Our Need, To Our Weakness Is No Stranger: A Study of the Humanity of Christ

Introduction

- Last Sunday we used the Carols of the Christmas Season as a backdrop to look at the deity of Christ. My basic premise was that the songs of the season leave people without excuse in terms the identity of Jesus Christ as God in his first advent as well as his atoning cross work for our sins.
- Some of the key scriptures we looked at included:
 - Luke 1:35
 - John 1:1-3, 14
 - Philippians 2:5-8
 - Hebrews 2:9-18
- This morning we want to focus on the humanity of Christ.

Jesus Christ: The Theanthropic Person

- Theologians use the word *Theanthropic* to describe the Person of Christ. Charles F. Baker in his book *A Dispensational Theology* describes this word as follows:
 - “This is another way of calling Him the God-man. There never was another person like Jesus Christ and there never will be another. There is therefore no person to whom He may be compared. . . There has been the tendency on the part of [theological] liberals to over-emphasize the humanity of Christ and on the part of [theological] conservatives to over-emphasize the Deity of Christ. The Scripture indicates the He possessed a perfect and complete human nature as well as a perfect and complete divine nature.” (Baker, 296)
- Theologians call this union of the human and divine in the Person of Jesus Christ the Hypostatic Union.
 - Hebrews 1:3—“By a personal union is meant a number of things. It means primarily that though Christ has two natures He is but one Person. It is admittedly difficult to understand how this could be, but this is the picture that the Bible presents of the Person of Christ. Therefore, at His birth it was not the begetting of a new person, which would have resulted in two persons, but the begetting of a new human nature. This human

nature was united with the pre-existing Divine Person. Whereas we speak of the nature of man, we must speak of the two natures of Christ.” (Baker, 302)

- Luke 1:35—“Son of God”
 - Isaiah 4:2
- Daniel 7:13-14—“Son of man”
 - Zechariah 6:12
- When talking about the Lord Jesus Christ there is an inherent danger in seeking to talk about one nature in isolation of the other. Many of the early formal heresies of the church centered around the misidentified of the Person of Christ. Some stressed the humanity of Christ while downplaying his divinity. Whereas others stressed the divinity of Christ while seeking to downplay his humanity.

The Humanity of Christ

- Consider the following line from “O Holy Night,” “He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger!” Because of his unique Personhood, we don’t have a standoffish savior who cannot relate to our humanity.
- Hebrews 5:5-10—in his humanity the Lord Jesus Christ truly is no stranger to our weakness.
- Jesus Christ manifested the limitations of human nature in the following ways:
 - Matthew 4:2—He was hungry
 - Matthew 8:24—He was sleepy
 - Matthew 14:22-23—He experienced anxiety and need time by himself to pray
 - Mark 1:35; 6:45
 - Luke 5:15-16; 6:12; 9:18; 11:1
 - Mark 3:5—He experienced the human emotion of anger.
 - Matthew 5:22—“without a cause” is left out of modern versions.
 - Matthew 21:12-13—Jesus threw the “moneychangers” out of the temple.
 - Luke 2:40, 52—He went through all the stages of normal human development.

- Luke 22:44—He experienced great “agony” along with its manifest physical symptoms
- John 4:6—He was weary
- John 19:28—He was thirsty
- John 11:34—He was limited in his human knowledge
- John 11:35—He wept over the lose of a loved one
 - Luke 19:14—Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem
- Matthew 4:1—He was tempted
 - Luke 4:1-2
 - I John 2:16—He was tempted in all the same categories that we are tempted with
- Hebrews 4:15—Jesus navigated the full range of human emotion and experience without sinning.
- Hebrews 2:18—having been through it himself, Christ is able to “succour them that are tempted.” The English word “succor” carries the following meanings according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*:
 - Verb—“Literally, to run to, or run to support; hence, to help or relieve when in difficulty, want or distress; to assist and deliver from suffering; as, to succor a besieged city; to succor prisoners.”
 - Noun—“Aid; help; assistance; particularly, assistance that relieves and delivers from difficulty, want or distress.”
- Hebrews 5:7—at the end of a hard year, I want to encourage you that Christ truly does “know our need” and that “to our weakness” He is “no stranger.”
- No matter what the new year brings let us take comfort in the fact that our savior can relate to what we go through as humans. And let us commit to allowing him to “succour” us in all our distresses.