

# The Humanity of Christ

## Introduction:

The humanity of Jesus Christ has never been the subject of widespread theological controversy down through the centuries. The Docetists of the second century A.D. denied the reality of Christ's body; the Apollinarians of the fourth century A.D. declared Christ was 2/3 human; and the Eutychians believed His body was actually divine. For the most part, however, the various branches of Christendom have held to the full humanity of our Lord.

The Bible clearly teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ was human in the full and complete sense of the word.

## I. Jesus Christ Had a Human Birth

### A. Christ was born of a woman.

Galatians 4:4

Following His supernatural conception, Jesus underwent the normal period of development in Mary's womb, Luke 2:5, and His birth was normal and natural, Luke 2:6-7.

### B. Christ had a Human Genealogy.

1. Matthew's Gospel presents the royal lineage from Abraham through David to Joseph.

Christ is the seed of David. Romans 1:3

2. Luke's Gospel presents the human lineage from Adam.

Christ is the seed of the woman. Genesis 3:15

Note: Christ never claimed to be the son of Joseph. He was called that a few times, but only by those unacquainted with Him — Luke 3:23; 4:22

## II. Jesus Christ had a Normal Human Development

Our Lord passed through infancy, childhood, youth, and manhood in the same fashion as any other child. See Luke 2:40, 46, 52

A. He was subject to the Laws of Ordinary Human Growth.

B. He was Trained in a Godly Home and Grew:

1. Mentally — In wisdom
2. Physically — and stature
3. Spiritually — in favor with God
4. Socially — and man

See Luke 2:51.

Note: There is a pseudepigraphal book relating to the childhood of Jesus which presents Him as a "super-boy." However John 2:11 records the first miracle of our Lord.

## III. Jesus Christ had a typical Human Appearance

A. He Looked Very Jewish. — John 4:9

Most likely, this would mean He had dark hair, olive skin and brown eyes.

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### B. He was Very Average in Appearance.

1. His Attraction was not Outward. — Isaiah 53:2
2. He Easily Blended in with Crowds. — John 8:59
3. Judas Had to Identify Him to Others. — Matthew 26:48-49

### C. He Looked Nothing Like that Portrayed in Religious Art.

Most “pictures” of Jesus Christ show Him with long hair and blue eyes (not to mention a halo.) Since no artist ever saw him, such representations can only be figments of men’s imaginations.

### D. Jesus Did NOT Have Long Hair.

Our Savior never looked like a “hippie!” There are several reasons why we can be certain He never wore long hair:

1. The Scriptural Reason. — I Corinthians 11:14
2. The Talmudic Reason. — The Jewish Talmud prescribed haircuts every 30 days.
3. The Archaeological Reason. — Busts of Roman emperors show short hair on men during Bible times.
4. The Unusualness Reason.

Whenever a man in the Bible did wear long hair, it is made note of in the narrative — indicating it was not the norm.

e.g. Samson — Judges 16:17, 19; Absalom — II Samuel 14:26; demonic locusts — Revelation 9:8.

Note: Some argue that Jesus wore long hair because He was a Nazarite. This is not so — He was a Nazarene (i.e. from Nazareth.)

## IV. Jesus Christ Had a Tri-Partite Human Nature

### A. Christ Had a Body.

Matthew 26:12; Hebrews 10:5, 10

See also: I John 1:1, where it is likely the apostle John wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost to answer the growing sects of Gnostics and Docetists.

### B. Christ Had a Soul. — Matthew 26:38; John 12:27

### C. Christ Had a Spirit. — Matthew 27:50; Mark 2:8; Luke 23:46

## V. Jesus Christ was subject to Human Limitations.

### A. Christ was Subject to Physical (Bodily) Limitations.

By taking upon Himself the form of a man, our Savior experienced the limitations of humanity.

1. He Experienced Weariness. — John 4:6
2. He Required Sleep. — Matthew 8:24
3. He Experienced Hunger. — Matthew 21:18
4. He Experienced Thirst. — John 19:28
5. He Suffered Pain. — Luke 22:44
6. He was Capable of Death. — Luke 23:46

### B. Christ was Subject to Intellectual and Moral (Soul) Limitations.

1. He Needed to Observe Things. — Mark 11:13

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### 2. He Was Tempted in All Things. — Hebrews 4:15

The temptation of Christ embraced the whole man (“all points”):

Body	— stones to bread	— hunger	— lust of the flesh
Soul	— cast thyself down	— fame	— pride of life
Spirit	— fall down and worship	— kingdoms	— lust of the eyes

### 3. He Evidenced Human Emotions.

- a) Compassion — Matthew 9:36; Mark 1:41
- b) Anger — Mark 3:5
- c) Grief — John 11:33-38
- d) Love — Mark 10:21; John 15:13

### C. Christ was Subject to Spiritual (Spirit) Limitations.

1. He Needed to Pray. — Matthew 26:36
2. He Needed the Filling of the Holy Spirit. — Luke 4:1

Note: Our Lord was in submission to the Father, but this subordination had to do with office and operation — not with essence. This fact does not destroy equality, because priority does not necessarily mean superiority. I Corinthians 11:3, along with several other passages, teaches the priority of the husband over the wife — but no Scripture teaches that the husbands are a “superior species” to wives.

With this understanding then, we note:

- a. Christ state the Father was greater — John 14:28.
- b. Christ was dependent upon the Father — John 5:19.
- c. Christ was sent by the Father — John 8:42; 20:21
- d. Christ received His authority from the Father — John 5:27
- e. Christ was under the authority of the Father — John 5:30
- f. Christ received His message from the Father — John 17:8
- g. Christ’s Kingdom was appointed by the Father — Luke 22:29
- h. Christ’s Kingdom will ultimately be delivered up to the Father — I Corinthians 15:24
- i. Christ voluntarily gave up the knowledge of the time of His return — Mark 13:32

### VI. Jesus Christ was Given Human Names and Titles

#### A. Jesus — Matthew 1:21

This was not an uncommon name amongst Jews, being the Greek equivalent to the Hebrew “Joshua.”

#### B. The Son of Man — John 5:27

This title is used over 80 times in the New Testament — Jesus Himself using it some 40 times. It is a title of humanity.

#### C. Jesus of Nazareth — Acts 2:22

#### D. The Man Christ Jesus — I Timothy 2:5

#### E. The Second Man — I Corinthians 15:47

#### F. The Prophet of Nazareth — Matthew 21:11

#### G. The Carpenter — Mark 6:3

#### H. Man — Acts 13:38

#### I. Master — Matthew 8:19 This means “Rabbi.”

#### J. Nazarene — Matthew 2:23

### VII. Jesus Christ Had a Human Relationship with God the Father.

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Our Lord prayed to the Father, and referred to God as His “Father” and “My God” — demonstrating a human relationship.

Of course this relationship involved more than just that, as we shall see.