

FOUNDATION OF FAITH!
CHRISTOLOGY: JESUS CHRIST
PART 3

Over the past few weeks we have been looking at the topic of Christology or the study of Jesus Christ in our series Foundation of Faith. And we have seen that the Scriptures clearly show us that Jesus is God as we looked at the attributes that the Scriptures tell us of Jesus and how they are also seen in God the Father. Thus, Jesus is the second person of the Holy Trinity, one God manifested in three distinct persons, just as the Bible teaches us.

I do understand that there are those out there that try to tell us that Jesus never claimed to be God, that the Scriptures don't teach that Jesus is God; it is something that was made up long after the death of Jesus. Let me give you a few examples to show you what I mean.

Victor Paul Wierwille, who is the founder of The Way International proclaimed, "When my life is over I think my greatest contribution may prove to be the knowledge and teaching that Jesus Christ is not God." Now I don't know if I would boast about that because Jesus said in Matthew 18:6, "**Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.**" In other words, those who are teaching false doctrine, moving us away from Jesus, causing us to stumble in our faith, look out, you will be judged!

For Paul Wierwille, he believed that the Church developed or adopted the idea of Jesus being God and other “heresies” as a result of pagan influences that came into the Christian Church during the first four centuries. Thus, his mission, he felt, was to return the church back to the truth and away from this “apostasy” that it had fallen into.

Folk’s, what is our plumb line to make sure what we believe is level, that it is not going askew? It is the Word of God! Conrad and I were talking a few weeks back and he was saying that when they pour a foundation for a building, say a home, that there is a corner or foundation that the rest of the building is built upon. Everything must line up with that one corner or the building will be askew you might say!

The same is true with our faith, for without a solid foundation, without a plumb line or something we can trust, how do we know what to believe? We would never be able to know and that is the problem. Today many are more interested in what man has to say, what they believe to be true than what God’s Word has to say and guess what, their faith is askew! Remember what Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 3:16-17, “**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**”

Listen carefully to what Paul is saying here because if we do not believe that God's Word is truth, if we don't believe that it is our plumb line you might say in all that we believe, then we are going to be in trouble! Paul tells us that "**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God**" and that phrase "**given by inspiration of God**" in the Greek is THEOPNEUSTOS, (teh-op'-nyoo-stos) and it literally means "God-breathed." All Scripture comes from God. Now some would argue that point, but that is the reality. Paul is not just speaking of the Old Testament here, as some try to teach, but from Genesis and ultimately through the book of Revelation. In I Timothy 5:18 Paul quotes out of the Gospel of Luke stating that it is Scripture. In II Peter 3:16 Peter tells us that Paul's writings are part of the Scriptures. And thus, the entire Bible is God's Word to us!

And think about this because there are many out there that try to discredit the Bible, but here is the reality. The Bible was written over a 1500-year time span. More than forty different authors from all walks of life – from kings to peasants, wrote it. It was written on three different continents – Africa, Asia and Europe. It was written in three different languages – Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. There are a variety of literary styles. It addresses hundreds of controversial subjects and yet there is harmony. And it is the unfolding story of God's love for sinful man. Prophetically it is awesome because what God has said would take place, has or will. There are over 300 prophecies of Christ's first coming and all of them were fulfilled down to the tiniest detail. Some argue that the Bible, over the years has many errors as it was copied. Look at the facts, the New Testament alone we see not more than one-one thousandth of the text is in question and not one significant doctrine is in question. The Old Testament is no different. Thus, God's Word is accurate, it is truth!

People today are running here and there trying to find help for themselves and yet, Paul tells us that God's Word is "**profitable**" or helpful for us and he lists four ways that it is helpful to us:

A. DOCTRINE – God's Word tells us what is right.

B. REPROOF – God's Word tells us what is wrong.

C. CORRECTION – God's Word tells us how to get right when we have gone astray.

D. INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS – God's Word tells us how to stay right.

God's Word makes us complete, it equips us for service. As you read God's Word, as you apply it to your life, by the power of God's Spirit, a believer will be able to meet the demands of righteousness, he will know what God desires of him and he will be able to stand strong, not for salvation but as evidence that a person is saved. Thus, Satan leads pastors and people away from God's Word because God's Word is living and it is powerful and it will transform our lives if we allow it to. Paul's warning to Timothy and to us is to be students of the Word of God if you want to stand strong against the perilous times and the perilous men that have come in and are coming in these last days! What a powerful lesson for us! And we will deal with this more as we look at the topic of the Bible in our study of Foundation of Faith down the road, but I think it is important that you understand that we can trust what the Scriptures tell us, we can look to them for the truth instead of the words of men, who are not always truthful. They may mean well, they may believe what they are teaching is truth, but if it is contrary to what the Scriptures say, it is not the truth!

Then why in the world do so many people reject what the Bible has to say? Listen carefully to this. Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them. You see, the Bible goes against what they want to believe, what they want to do and thus, they reject it. But that is just foolish and it can be deadly, spiritually speaking and also physically speaking!

You see, it is more than just knowing the Scriptures, it is believing them and applying them to your life, otherwise it is meaningless as this story illustrates for us. We are told,

While studying in the Holy Lands, a seminary professor of mine met a man who claimed to have memorized the Old Testament - in Hebrew! Needless to say, the astonished professor asked for a demonstration. A few days later they sat together in the man's home. "Where shall we begin?" asked the man. "Psalm 1," replied my professor, who was an avid student of the psalms. Beginning with Psalm 1:1, the man began to recite from memory, while my professor followed along in his Hebrew Bible. For two hours the man continued word for word without a mistake as the professor sat in stunned silence. When the demonstration was over, my professor discovered something even more astonishing about the man - he was an atheist! Here was someone who knew the Scriptures better than most Christians ever will, and yet he didn't even believe in God.

- Jack Kuhatschek, Taking The Guesswork
Out of Applying The Bible, p. 16

Thus, in saying that, as we read the Scriptures, our plumb line, we can clearly see that Jesus is God. We saw that Jesus is eternal, that He is omnipotent or all powerful, that He is omniscient or all knowing, He is omnipresent or He is present everywhere and that He is immutable or unchanging. All the Godly Attributes that are seen in God the Father are also seen in God the Son and thus, Jesus must be God. In fact, Jesus is 100% God and yet, the Scriptures also teach us the humanity of Jesus, that He was 100% man! I know, once again I have come up with 200% and that does not make sense. All I can say is that I agree with you, how can Jesus be 100% God and yet be 100% man at the same time? I may not be able to figure this out with my finite mind, but I do believe it by faith because that is what the Scriptures are telling us, our plumb line as I have said. It is not that He was 50% God and 50% man; it was 100% God and 100% man in the Incarnation!

Remember what Paul said in Hebrews 2:17-18, **“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”**

The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“So it is evident that it was essential that He be made like His brethren in every respect, in order that He might become a merciful (sympathetic) and faithful High Priest in the things related to God, to make atonement and propitiation for the people’s sins. For because He Himself [in His humanity] has suffered in being tempted (tested and tried), He is able [immediately] to run to the cry of (assist, relieve) those who are being tempted and tested and tried [and who therefore are being exposed to suffering].”**

Notice what Paul is telling us here. If Jesus were not like us, then He could not be our High Priest and thus, He could not represent us before the Father, making atonement or propitiation for our sins! Here's the thing. Neither His Deity nor His Humanity is negotiable. If you diminish one, either one, then He is not able to save us! Thus, this is a big deal!

And think about this, He is our faithful High Priest. Remember what the High Priest wore, the breastplate with the 12 stones representing the 12 tribes of Israel on both sides of his chest and shoulders and it was to show that the High Priest was in constant sympathy with the people of God, he carried them in his heart and on his shoulders. Now, Jesus did not wear a breastplate but He did something even more amazing. He had the spear that pierced his heart, that wound and His shoulders that carried the cross gives us the picture of His great love for us and the work that He has done for us, to make propitiation for the sins of the people!

And one more point here and that deals with His humanity. Since Jesus added humanity to His deity He was able to experience human suffering, temptations, He knows what we are going through. Do you really understand that fact? Do you understand that Almighty God took on a body of flesh, He dwelt among us and thus, by experience He knows what I am going through and thus, He can come to my aid and not just feel sorry or bad for me!

Think about the comfort that should bring to our hearts, our lives in knowing that. Poole put it like this as he wrote on this subject, “This is the most powerful preservative against despair, and the firmest ground of hope and comfort, that ever believing, penitent sinners could desire or have.” And Clarke put it like this, “Were the rest of the Scripture silent on this subject, this verse might be an ample support for every tempted soul.” May we not forget that fact, the God put on humanity and He knows, He understands what we are going through because He has gone through it already!

Now, with the rest of our time this morning we are going to be looking at the humanity of Jesus, what that is all about, what we can learn from His humanity as John tells us, “**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**” And The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, “**And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [actually] saw His glory (His honor, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of grace (favor, loving-kindness) and truth. [Isa 40:5.]**” John 1:14.

Notice what we see here. John is telling us or showing us the humanity added to His deity, God became flesh and dwelt or tabernacled or pitched His tent among us, the Incarnation! In Matthew 1:22-23 we are told, “**So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’**”

Matthew is quoting out of Isaiah 7:14. It is as Paul said regarding the incarnation, **“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.”** I Timothy 3:16.

Now the Mormons jump on this idea or phrase, **“the only begotten of the Father”** and say that Jesus is a created being, in fact; they say that Jesus and Lucifer or Satan are brothers! First of all we already dealt with Jesus being eternal and that He is God, while Lucifer or Satan is not eternal and he is not God, although he wants to be! Lucifer or Satan is a created being, he was the anointed cherub until he sinned and fell!

Also, if they would only read the text, it says, **“the only begotten of the Father.”** Yes, we are children of God but adopted into the family of God, but Jesus was the only begotten of the Father in the Incarnation! Yes, Jesus is eternal but there was a point in time that He became flesh and dwelt among us! And I am so thankful that He is full of grace, unmerited favor towards us; and truth, I don't have to fear about being lead astray by the Word, by Jesus, when He says, **“...‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”** John 14:6.

Now before we look at some Scriptures that show to us the humanity of Jesus, let me share with you a couple of definitions regarding what the word, “Incarnation” is all about. One definition says this, “In the context of Christian theology, the act whereby, the eternal Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, without ceasing to be what he is, God the Son, took into union with himself what he before that act did not possess, a human nature.” (Robert L. Reymond, “Incarnation,” EDoT, 555).

One more and we are told regarding the Incarnation, “The word incarnation means ‘in flesh’ and denotes the act whereby the eternal Son of God took to Himself an additional nature, humanity, through the virgin birth. The result is that Christ remains forever unblemished deity, which He has had from eternity past; but He also possesses true, sinless humanity in one Person forever.” (Paul P. Enns, *Moody Handbook of Theology*, p. 222).

Now let’s explore this idea of the humanity of Jesus, that God became flesh and dwelt among us in the incarnation and it did not take away His deity, He was and is fully God, and He was and is fully man in the Incarnation!

2. HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST

HE WAS BORN OF A WOMAN

We need to remember that God did not just pop into the picture; He was born of a woman! We are told in Galatians 4:4, “**But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.**” God’s timing is perfect and thus, God sent forth His Son to redeem sinful man who was under the curse of the Law. Jesus was “**born of a woman**” which speaks of His humanity and the virgin birth. He was fully God and He was fully man! He was born into a society that was in bondage to the Law and yet He kept it perfectly, and only He could, as He said in Matthew 5:17, “**Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**”

Thus, because He was sinless He could pay in full the penalty for our sins as Peter tells us in I Peter 1:18-21, **“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”** I like the way that Govett put it. He said, “Christ, by nature Son of God, became a son of man, that we, by nature sons of man, might become sons of God. Wonderful exchange.” I can’t agree with him more, it is a wonderful exchange.

In Matthew 1:18-25 we are told, **“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.”**

Also, in Luke 1:30-38 we are told, **“Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.’ Then Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I do not know a man?’ And the angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.’ Then Mary said, ‘Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.’ And the angel departed from her.”**

How many of you were born of a woman? I hope all of you or we have some problems. You see, that makes you human. What about test tube baby’s? Folk’s, they still need a mother’s womb to grow in and ultimately be born. Thus, we can clearly see that Jesus is born of a woman, of Mary, which speaks of His humanity.

HE WAS SUBJECT TO THE LAWS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

This is one we might not think of too much when we think of Jesus, but He was subject to the laws of human development as these Scriptures show us. In Luke 2:40 we are told, “**And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.**” When Jesus was born He was not a mature adult, He was an infant, a new born baby and over the years, like babies do, they grow up, they learn to walk and talk and so did Jesus. Jesus did not ace His SAT scores, but He grew in wisdom and knowledge. Did that make Him less than God? No, He emptied Himself of some of His godly attributes and He just naturally grew like any child, but without sin!

We see this again in Luke 2:52, which tells us, “**And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.**” Too often we think of Jesus being born as a “Superman” but that is not true. You see, as Jesus grew “He passed through a natural but perfect spiritual and physical development. At every stage He was perfect for that stage.” (Geldenhuys). Again, in seeing Jesus grow in wisdom and knowledge we see His humanity.

HE POSSESSED THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF HUMAN NATURE

If Jesus was fully human then He needed to possess the essential elements of human nature. What do I mean by that? Simply, He needed to possess a body, a soul and a spirit. So let’s look at these three elements of human nature that we see in Jesus.

HE POSSESSED A BODY

Now this is one that most of us have no problem with, that Jesus possessed a body of flesh and blood, but for some this was an issue. The Apostle John dealt with this issue in his first epistle because of a heresy that had infiltrated the church by the Gnostics. This group supposedly had some kind of special spiritual insight that went far beyond the Word of God. And please understand that there were various views within Gnosticism but one of their ideas was that the flesh is evil and the spirit is good. Thus, a Divine being could never inhabit a body of flesh.

And so, in regards to Jesus, some said He was a spirit and just hovered over the ground, He never left footprints. You see, Jesus could never inhabit a body of flesh, that was evil in their thinking, so He must be spirit. Others said that when Jesus was baptized the Spirit of God came upon Him and left before He went to the cross. But listen to how John opens up his epistle. He writes in I John 1:1, **“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life.”**

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“[WE ARE writing] about the Word of Life [in] Him Who existed from the beginning, Whom we have heard, Whom we have seen with our [own] eyes, Whom we have gazed upon [for ourselves] and have touched with our [own] hands.”**

And The Living Bible says, **“Christ was alive when the world began, yet I myself have seen him with my own eyes and listened to him speak. I have touched him with my own hands. He is God's message of life.”**

John starts out with a bang and speaks of the eternal God, Jesus, who became flesh and dwelt among us. And notice the boldness of John here, he can attest to this with 100% confidence. How can he be so sure? Because John was there, he heard Jesus talk, he saw Jesus with his own eyes, he looked steadfastly at Jesus examining Him, he touched Jesus. Thus, Jesus is not some ghost or spirit but He was flesh and blood in the Incarnation and He was fully God! In spite of what the Gnostics were saying, John was there and thus, these things are true concerning the Word of life!

You see, they were eyewitnesses of the Lord, and thus, the Gnostics were not and we can trust the accounts of John and the other disciples because they saw what transpired. It is as one writer put it, "I am so glad my knowledge of eternal life is not built upon the speculations of the philosophers or even theologians but on the unimpeachable testimony of those who heard, saw, gazed at, and handled Him in whom it was incarnate. It is not merely a lovely dream, but solid fact, carefully observed and an accurately recorded fact." And tragically, even today we have people believing the words of men instead of the Words of God, the Scriptures that are truth!

Not only that, but we are told in Matthew 26:12 that Jesus was flesh and blood. Jesus said here in Matthew, "**For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial.**" When Mary poured this fragrant oil on Jesus did the oil run right through Him since He was a ghost or some kind of spirit, not flesh and blood? Obviously not, she poured this oil on His body and it ran down His body because He is flesh and blood! I think that is pretty clear, it is pretty straight forward, don't you?

In John 2:18-22, after Jesus drove out the money changers in the temple, we are told, **“So the Jews answered and said to Him, ‘What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ Then the Jews said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?’ But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.”**

When John spoke of Jesus’ **“body”** he used the Greek word SOMA and it speaks of his literal body and not some spiritual body. In other words, when Jesus said that this temple that they will destroy will be raised up in three days He was speaking of His body and thus, it was not His Spirit that was raised in three days, but it was a physical resurrection that occurred! You see, Jesus possessed a body of flesh, He was human.

One more regarding Jesus possessing a physical body and that is found in Luke 24:36-40 where we are told regarding the resurrected Christ, **“Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, ‘Peace to you.’ But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, ‘Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.’ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.”**

Now here's the thing. If Jesus was just a spirit in His resurrected body, why did He go through so much trouble to show His disciples that He was not just a spirit, but possessed a body that they could touch? You see, that would make no sense unless Jesus did possess a body and that is exactly what the Scriptures have shown us!

HE POSSESSED A SOUL

Jesus not only possessed a body in the Incarnation, but He also possessed a soul. Let me give you a few Scriptures to show you what I mean. In Matthew 26:38 we see Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and we are told, "**Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.'**" The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, "**Then He said to them, My soul is very sad and deeply grieved, so that I am almost dying of sorrow. Stay here and keep awake and keep watch with Me.**"

Now here's the thing, what do we mean when we speak of the soul of a person or their soul is exceedingly sorrowful, what does it mean? Listen to what The New Unger's Bible Dictionary has to say regarding the word "soul." We are told,

"The Greek term psuche has the simple meaning of life (Matt 6:25; Luke 12:22); that in which there is life, a living being (1 Cor 15:45); every soul . . . It also has the meaning of the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversion . . . the soul regarded as a moral being designed for everlasting life (3 John 2; Heb 13:17; James 1:21; 5:20; 1 Peter 1:9). Another meaning of psuche is the soul as an essence that differs from the body and is not dissolved by death (Matt 10:28); the soul freed from the body, a disembodied soul (Acts 2:27; Rev 20:4)."

So the soul, to me is different than the body and I believe it is what makes up the person, who he is. In John 12:27 we see Jesus predict His death and notice what He says here as we are told, **“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”** The word that is used here for **“troubled”** is a very strong word. It speaks of horror, anxiety, agitation and thus, as Jesus contemplated taking on the sins of the world and thus, taking on the wrath of God that was due the people of this world for their sins, He was troubled, His soul was troubled, it is His inner being.

One more Scripture relating to Jesus possessing a soul and that is in Acts 2:25-33, which says, **“For David says concerning Him: ‘I foresaw the Lord always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’ Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.”**

Now think about this, if the soul is not the substance of the person, then what is the point about leaving the soul in Hades? That would make no sense, and thus, it has to be speaking of all that a person is, all that he has, all the emotions and thought process that are his soul and thus, Jesus possessed a soul.

HE POSSESSED A SPIRIT

Jesus not only possessed a body and a soul but He also possessed a spirit. Notice what we are told in Mark 2:8 in the story of Jesus healing the paralytic, “**But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, ‘Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?’**” Notice that Jesus, in His spirit perceived what was going on inside of them.

Also, in Mark 8:12 we are told, “**But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, ‘Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation.’**” And in John 13:21 we are told, “**When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.’**”

The spirit inside of us is that which is in communication with God. Think of it like this. When God created man He created man with a spirit, a soul and a body. Before sin entered the world, our spirit, which is in contact with God, controlled the soul of man, and the body or flesh was in subjection to the spirit. After sin was introduced, the spirit died and now the flesh or the body controlled the soul! You see, we were created in the image of God, a triune being of spirit, soul and body as God is a Triune being of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. And thus, when we are born again it is our spirit that is reborn and controls the soul of man and the body or the body appetites have been crucified with Christ.

Thus, what we see here in Jesus is that He possessed the essential elements of human nature; a body, a soul and a spirit and thus, it shows us His humanity! Next time will continue looking at this important subject of the humanity of Jesus but as I close let me leave you with this to think about. We are told,

Long ago, there ruled in Persia a wise and good king. He loved his people. He wanted to know how they lived. He wanted to know about their hardships. Often he dressed in the clothes of a working man or a beggar, and went to the homes of the poor. No one whom he visited thought that he was their ruler.

One time he visited a very poor man who lived in a cellar. He ate the coarse food the poor man ate. He spoke cheerful, kind words to him. Then he left. Later he visited the poor man again and disclosed his identity by saying, "I am your king!" The king thought the man would surely ask for some gift or favor, but he didn't. Instead he said, "You left your palace and your glory to visit me in this dark, dreary place. You ate the coarse food I ate. You brought gladness to my heart! To others you have given your rich gifts. To me you have given yourself!"

God is willing to make most any accommodation to have fellowship with us. Even becoming human.

- Brett Blair, Sermon Illustrations

That is our God, that is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as He stepped down off His throne in glory to become flesh, to feel what we feel and to die for our sins. Again, as we said of God the Father we can say of Jesus, the more we know of Him the more we should love Him and the more we love Him the more we should want to know Him!