



Jesus is the Unique God-Man: Understanding the two natures of Jesus Christ

Statement of the doctrine:

“In the one person of Christ, there exists two natures. One being fully God and the other being fully human. Jesus is the perfect God-Man. The relationship between the natures is beyond our comprehension”

Understanding the doctrine

1. Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary (Matt 1:23; Gal 4:4) in fulfillment of Isaiah’s prediction (Isa 7:14).
2. From a more theological point of view, John says that the eternal and divine Word became flesh and that God thus “tabernacled” among us (John 1:1, 14; Exodus 40:34-35).
3. The doctrine of the incarnation means that the second person of the Trinity took on human flesh. Jesus Christ is both undiminished deity united with perfect humanity forever and without confusion of attributes. One person, two natures (divine/human).
4. God became a man in order to redeem his creation and rule over it.

False views of the two natures of Jesus Christ

- A. Some misrepresent Jesus' deity; others misrepresent His humanity and still others misrepresent the relationship between the two natures**

Correctly understanding the two natures in the one person of Jesus

THE CHALCEDONIAN CREED (451 A.D.)

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable soul and body; consubstantial [*homoousios*-- "same nature"] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the prophets from the beginning have declared concerning him, and the Lord Jesus Christ himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

Application

1. Confess Jesus as Lord, surrender and worship Him-Philippians 2:5-11
2. Value and pursue knowing Him above everything else-Philippians 3:7-14
3. Proclaim Him and make disciples-Matthew 28:18-20, Colossians 1:28-29