

The Humanity of Jesus Westminster Confession of Faith Ch. VIII (abr)

- I. God ordained the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, to be the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Savior of His Church
- II. The Son of God did take upon Him man's nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin
- III. The Lord Jesus, in His human nature thus united to the divine having in Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge
- IV. The Lord Jesus was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfill it; endured most grievous torments immediately in His soul, and most painful sufferings in His body
- V. The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience, and sacrifice has fully satisfied the justice of His Father for those whom the Father has given unto Him.

From "**Evidence that Demands a Verdict**", Josh McDowell, Volume 1 (1990)

No serious scholar has ventured to postulate the non-historicity of Jesus.

Over 24,000 copies of the 27 Books and Letters of the New Testament are known, some within one generation of the original manuscript.

Church Fathers include Polycarp, Eusebius, Irenaeus, Ignatius, Justin, Origen.

Non-Biblical sources include Cornelius Tacitus, Lucian of Samosata, Flavius Josephus, Suetonius, Pinius Secundus, Tertullian, Thallus, Phlegon, Mara Bar-Serapion, Justin Martyr, and various Jewish Talmuds.

In ancient times, even the opponents of Christianity never doubted the historicity of Jesus. His life has only been disputed in the past three centuries, usually on philosophical grounds not historical evidence.

Jesus' **Genealogy** shows that He was a real person born in time and space. His ancestors were saints & sinners: Abraham, Tamar, Bathsheba, David, Mary

His **virgin birth** measures of ones' views of Scripture and the deity of Christ
Isaiah 7 and 8; Matthew 1; Luke 1

- Y Born in Bethlehem ... in a barn ... during the census.
- Y No room at the inn though thousands in their family were in the town.
- Y His only visitors at His birth were third shift shepherds.
- Y The circumstances of His birth no doubt lead to shame, snubs, and mockings.
- Y He lived in poverty while oppressed by the Romans.
- Y He lived without any modern conveniences or barriers preventing people from approaching Him.

He slept, ate, drank, walked, spoke, wept, touched others, washed, worked, ...

Titles describing Jesus' humanity (1)

Jesus was a name chosen by God meaning 'He shall save His people from their sins' He was called, Emmanuel meaning God with us (Matt 1)

He was a Nazarene living in a working class town in Northern Israel (Matt 2)

Jesus was accused of being a Friend of tax collectors and sinners (Matt 11)

He was identified as a Servant by God the Father at His baptism

As a Carpenter, Jesus ran a small business dealing with customers, vendors, salesmen, competitors in a physically demanding profession to support His family

As a Brother, Jesus was the eldest of at least six siblings (Mark 6).

He was probably the head of His household prior to His public ministry.

He was a Baby born in humble circumstances (Luke 2)

As a Boy, Jesus was obedient to His parents, growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man (Luke 2)

Titles describing Jesus' humanity (2)

As a Holy Child (Acts 4), He went about doing His Father's business. (Luke 2)

The self-proclaimed Physician healed many people of serious diseases (Luke 4)

Living as a Galilean, Jesus was at the crossroads of Asia, Europe and Africa

Fulfilling Old Testament prophecy, Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ, and the Anointed One. (John 1)

Born a Jew, Jesus lived in a land occupied by a brutal enemy. He identified with a people that had suffered throughout history (John 4)

Rabboni was Mary's name for the one she loved, respected, and honored (John 20)

As a Teacher, His classrooms were synagogues, county sides, mountain tops,

and dinner tables. He taught huge crowds or a dozen disciples, or

individuals. He spoke with men, women, children, outcasts, Pharisees, Romans...

Attested to as a Man by Paul, Peter, and Pilate.

As a Man of sorrows, Jesus experienced the effects of sin on His creation (Isaiah 53)

Was Jesus a vegetarian? Matthew 11, Luke 22 & 24, John 21

What does it mean to be human?

There isn't a problem that didn't enter into the life and experience of Jesus.

Hebrews 4:15-16 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Christianity has something to say to our situation
... and to the situation of everyone we will ever meet.

Hebrews 12:3 Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Whatever your situation, Christ can identify with you.

Loving God with your whole heart, mind, body, and soul

- U Has the joy gone out of your **Bible study** and Scripture meditation? Jesus knew and often spoke of the Old Testament leaders and prophets.
- U Do you struggle to find the time, energy, and privacy to **pray**? Jesus often prayed alone at night, before dawn, or in the wilderness. He prayed privately and publicly. He prayed for strength, with thankfulness, and behalf of His disciples.
- U Do distractions interrupt your **worship**? Jesus worshiped at synagogues, the temple, and celebrated the annual Jewish Holy Days.
- U Can you trust God when you're under fire but have **done nothing wrong**? At His trial, Jesus did not answer His accusers.
- U Do you wonder if you **service to God** matters to anyone? Jesus lamented over the sinfulness of Jerusalem (Matt 23)
- U Are we torn between pursuing **worldly success** and God's calling for our life? No one would have been more successful than Jesus had He applied Himself to politics, business, or religion.
- U Do we fail to do the good God has prepared for us, i.e. **sins of omission**? Jesus said, "it is finished"

Loving those who love you

- † Do friends **abandon** you when you need them the most? Jesus knew sorrow when the disciples fell asleep instead of praying with Him. (Matt 26)
- † Does the pain of **unrequited love** cause you heartache? Has anyone ever felt more unloved than Jesus?
- † Do the **effects of sin** in the lives of others break your heart? Jesus looked on the crowds and had compassion on them. (Matt 9)
- † Are you uncomfortable when your **friends fight** among themselves? His disciples argued over who was the greatest among them (Luke 22)
- † Do you live in a home filled with **tension**? His brothers did not believe in Him.
- † Do you resent doing the low and demeaning **chores** of life? Jesus washed the disciples' feet (John 13)
- † Is **submission** to authority (parents, teachers, religious leaders, government officials, spouse) a particularly difficult challenge? Jesus lived in obedience to God and to men.
- † Do you know what it is to be **betrayed** by friends? Consider how Jesus loved Judas (Matt 26). Remember how Jesus felt when Peter denied Him three times. (Matt 26)

Loving your enemies

- @ Do you suffer from the **ridicule and gossip** of others? Jesus was scorned and mocked by the crowds at His trial. (Mark 15)
- @ Do you face **hostile crowds** at work, home, school, etc.? The Jewish leaders persecuted Jesus and repeatedly plotted to kill Him. (John 5)
- @ Is your faith constrained by **social rules**? Jesus spoke to children, women, Samaritans, tax collectors, Romans, etc.
- @ Do **others suffer** for your obedience to God? Herod killed the baby boys after Jesus' birth. (Matt 2) Simon carried Jesus' cross for part of His journey to Golgotha. (Mark 15)
- @ Do you secretly plot **revenge** on the sinners that have harmed you? Jesus could have called down legions of angels on His executioners.
- @ Are you angry when the **wicked prosper** at your expense? Remember that Jesus watched Barabbus go free. (Matt 27)

Maintaining your personal integrity in a sinful world (1)

- > Are you sick and tired of being sick and tired from burdens of life? Jesus was weary from His travels. (John 4)
- > Are you **overworked**? Do you wonder if God is asking you to do more than you can handle? Jesus was troubled as He prepared for the cross. (John 12)
- > Are you tempted to **"bend the rules"** to accomplish a greater good? After fasting for forty days in the wilderness, suffering from fatigue and hunger, the devil offered Jesus many valuable things. (Matt 4)
- > Do you feel **underappreciated**? Jesus was without honor in His hometown (Matt 13)
- > Do you worry about money? The Son of Man had no where to lay His head. (Luke 9)
- > Do you struggle with **repeated** temptation? Jesus outlasted all of Satan's temptations and schemes for forty days and nights in the wilderness. (Matt 4)
- > Do you **mourn** the loss of loved ones? He was a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.
- > Do you live in **obscurity**? Jesus waited thirty years to begin His public ministry (Luke 3)

Maintaining your personal integrity in a sinful world (2)

- > Are you tempted with **fame and popularity**? Thousands listened to His teachings and followed Him.
- > Do you struggle with being an effective **steward** of the time, talents, and treasure God has given you? Jesus and His disciples kept a treasury for their ministry. (John 13)
- > Do members of the opposite sex tempt you to **lust** (or worse)? Prostitutes fell at Jesus feet
- > Are you tempted to escape the world with drugs or **alcohol**? More than anyone, Jesus would have needed relief from the sinfulness of the world .
- > Where do you find the **courage** to remain faithful when all seems lost? Jesus prepared His whole life for the cross where He suffered physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual pain. Crowds ridiculed Him. He waited to die. God the Father abandoned Him.
- > Do **complaining and gossiping** make up the majority of your conversations? Jesus always spoke with kindness, truth, love, mercy, and grace.

Proclaiming the Gospel to the world

- * Are you **discouraged** because people fail to respond to the Gospel? Jesus was rejected personally as He proclaimed the Gospel. (John 6)
- * Do you **doubt** the power of the Gospel in people's lives? Jesus was amazed at the faith of a centurion. (Matt 8)
- * Are you frustrated and **angry** when others ignore God? Jesus cleared the Temple of merchants. (John 2) He mourned over the spiritually rebellious in Jerusalem. (Luke 13)
- * Does your faith hurt your **reputation**? Jesus healed the demon possessed man but the town pleaded with Him to leave. (Mark 5)
- * Do wonder if your service to God is a **failure**? After His resurrection, only 120 disciples gathered in the upper room (Acts 1)

A Spiritual Inventory

Are you being conformed into the image of His Son Jesus? (Romans 8)

Do you desire to obey God? (James 1) WWJD

Is Jesus your first love? (Revelation 2)

1 Corinthians 10 - God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear, but when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

2 Corinthians 1 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation