

Are You Behaving?

When my brothers and I were not acting right at a young age, our father used to say, "Boys, stop misbehaving." He wanted us to behave properly when we were in his house. Our heavenly father also wants us to behave properly when we are in his house.

Paul wrote the following in I Timothy 3:14-15: "*These things I write unto you ... that you might know how men ought to behave themselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God...*" As Christians, we are to behave in God's house. We are to live properly daily for Christ.

Consider now four truths from what Paul wrote. First, there is a behavior necessary for God's people ("how men ought to behave") and we cannot live anyway we want. Second, this behavior can be known ("that you may know") and we are not left to guess. Third, this behavior is found in an object standard of truth, the Bible ("These things write I unto you") and not in our inner subjective feelings. Fourth, this behavior is given with high dignity ("the house of God ... the church of the living God"). We are Christians in God's house and not a part of a mere social club.

"Behavior" is what God wants us to be. Our being is under consideration, not just our doing. There is a way that God wants us to be from the inside out. God is a God of order and he wants order in his house, the church. Are you behaving in God's house each day? - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- We don't change the Bible message, the Bible message changes us.
- Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.
- When you kneel before God you can stand before men.
- To be almost saved is to be totally lost.
- People usually take your example far more seriously than they take your advice.

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

June 11, 2017



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Many people over the centuries have denied the humanity of Jesus, the deity of Jesus, or both. What is the Bible truth about Jesus' humanity and deity?

Jesus Was Fully Human (Man)

Jesus experienced a common humanity while here on this earth. He had flesh just like we do (Luke 24:39; Romans 1:3; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 4:2-3; 2 John 7) and a body (Hebrews 10:5,9-10; 1 John 1:1). He was born (Galatians 4:4) and he was a baby for a time (Matthew 2:11).

Jesus experienced physical growth just like a normal child would (Luke 2:40,52). There were times when he was hungry (Luke 4:2) and thirsty (John 4:7; 19:28). On one occasion he fasted (Matthew 4:2).

Jesus did other things that humans do. He obeyed God (Matthew 4:4,7,10) and prayed (Matthew 14:23). He experienced things that humans experienced.

He was tempted (Matthew 4:1ff), he had anger (righteous indignation) (Mark 3:5; 10:14), compassion (Matthew 9:36; Mark 1:41), love (Mark 10:21; John 13:1), joy (John 4:11) and trouble (Matthew 26:37; John 12:27; 13:21).

Jesus slept (Matthew 8:24; Mark 4:38; Luke 8:23) and he wept (Luke 19:41; John 11:35; Hebrews 5:7; see Isaiah 53:3). He had sweat (Luke 22:44). He was weary (John 4:6). He experienced death (John 19:30). He was "son of man" (Daniel 7:13;

Luke 19:10; 24:5-8; John 1:13; Acts 7:56).

Jesus Was Fully Divine (God)

The deity of Jesus can be demonstrated in the following ways: Old Testament prophecies (Micah 5:2 and John 8:58), the virgin birth, his divine attributes, prerogatives and titles, Jesus' works, resurrection and his second coming.

The following passages of scripture speak to Jesus deity and divinity: Mark 2:5-7; John 5:18-23; 8:58-59; 10:33; 20:28; Colossians 2:9; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 1:1; Hebrews 1:6-8; and Revelation 1:17 (see Isaiah 44:6).

Jesus' humanity and deity were brought together in the virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; see Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 22:41-45 John 1:1,14; Philippians 2:5-8).

Jesus was a man *also*, not a man *only*. Jesus was a man *as I am a man*, but He was also more. Jesus is also not like me in a way. He is divine and I am not. Jesus was 100% man (in body) and 100% divine (in spirit). This does not equal 200%, because two different natures are being considered when looking at Jesus. Jesus was one being (body and spirit) with two natures, human and divine. Jesus was fully God, before, during and after his stay on earth.

Lessons For Today

What can we learn today concerning the humanity of Jesus? There are two lessons. First, we can learn about comfort. Jesus, sharing our humanity, understands us (Hebrews 2:9-18; 4:15-16; 1 Timothy 2:5). He is our High Priest of comfort.

Second, we can learn about the importance of example. Jesus, sharing our humanity, gives us an example how to overcome sin (1 Peter 2:22).

What can we learn today concerning the deity of Jesus? First, we learn about sacrifice. Jesus, being divine, sacrificed in order to save man (Philippians 2:5ff). He is our example of self-sacrifice.

Second, we learn about worship. Jesus, being divine, demands (and is worthy of) our worship (Matthew 2:11; 8:2; 9:18; 14:33; 15:25; 20:20; 28:17; John 9:38; Hebrews 1:6; Philippians 2:10-11). If Jesus was not divine, our worship of Him would be idolatrous (see Matthew 4:10; Acts 10:26; Revelation 22:8-9).

What can we learn from the deity and humanity of Jesus? First, we learn about Jesus' superiority. Jesus, being God-man, makes Christianity unique (Acts 4:12). Other religions do not have a God-man savior.

Second, we learn about Jesus' revelation. Jesus, being God-man, shows us deity clearly (John 1:18; 14:8-9; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 1:20; 1 John 1:1-2).

May we never de-emphasize Jesus' humanity, or Jesus' deity. May we never throw away the greatest comfort, example, sacrifice, worship, religion, and revelation ever given to man. May we never deny Jesus! - *Chris Reeves*