

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

Robert R. McLaughlin Bible Ministries

DOCTRINE OF THE HYPOSTATIC UNION

INTRODUCTION

Since the first Advent, it is no longer the divine nature alone which is expressed in the person of Jesus Christ, but the human nature as well. There is God. There are angels. There are humans. And there is the God-man. Jesus Christ is God with all the attributes of God. All the attributes of deity adhere to His deity and never cross over and become humanity. All the attributes of humanity adhere to the humanity of Christ and never become deity. Jesus Christ had to become perfect humanity to be our Savior, to be our High Priest, to be the mediator between God and man, and to fulfill the promise of the Davidic covenant that David's son would rule forever.

POINT 1. DEFINITION

In the person of Jesus Christ since His physical birth [incarnation], there are *two* natures, undiminished deity and true humanity in one person forever. These two natures — human and divine — remain distinct and are inseparably united without mixture or loss of identity, without loss or transfer of attributes. This means that the Lord Jesus Christ [TLJC] is just as much God as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.....and at the same time He is also just as much human as you and I. He is undiminished deity and true humanity in one person forever.

It is important to note that the two natures of Christ maintain their complete identity while being joined in personal union forever. The characteristics of His human nature belong to the human part of Him; the characteristics of His divine nature belong to the God part of Him. Each nature has its own attributes that adhere to that nature. In other words, there is no mixture of the two natures. He is never half-God and half-man or half-man and half-God.

- Sometimes He operates from His human nature only, as in **Matthew 4:2**,

*And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.¹ or **John 19:28**, After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I am thirsty.” He would say such things as in **John 14:28**, “For the Father is greater than I.”*

- Sometimes He operates from His divine nature only, saying in **John 10:30**, “I and the Father are one.” or **John 5:23**, “in order that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father.”
- Sometimes He operates from both natures together but not mixed when He says such things as in **John 14:6**, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.”

Many cults exist and deny the deity of Christ because they don't understand this doctrine. The point is that the human nature in Christ always remains the human nature and the divine nature always remains the divine nature. This is why we can refer to Him as the God-man. The two natures are united without transfer of attributes or qualities. It is impossible to transfer an attribute of one nature to the other nature without destroying that nature. If God is added to man then man is no longer true humanity! If man is added to God then God is no longer undiminished deity. A change of attributes involves a change of essence. Therefore, there is no change in the essence of deity or the essence of humanity.

The doctrine of the Hypostatic Union is documented in many passages, including **John 1:1-14**, **Romans 1:2-5, 9:5**, **1 Timothy 3:16**, **Hebrews 2:14**, **Philippians 2:5-11**, **1 John 1:1-3**.

1 Timothy 6:15 says, *which [a reference to the Rapture of the church] He [TLJC] will bring about at the proper time — He who is the happy one and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.*

The word “hypostatic” comes from **Hebrews 1:1-3**, *God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

The word for nature is the noun *hupostasis* which means “substance, essence, standing under or taking a thing upon oneself.” TLJC took upon Himself true humanity. “Hypostatic” refers to the *whole* Person of Christ as distinguished from His two natures, divine and human. The fact that Christ will be true humanity forever indicates that humanity *can* live forever — but not in the original body which comes into the world through physical birth; that body is subject to death. The resurrection body is never subject to any kind of death which is another unique characteristic of Jesus Christ, and the believer will have the same kind of body as His — minus, of course, any scars, **Philippians 3:21**.

The second chapter of Philippians contains one of the greatest passages in the Word of God on the doctrine of the Hypostatic Union and the Celebrityship of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:3 *Do nothing from selfishness [lust ambition] or empty conceit [pride and arrogance], but with humility of mind [grace-thinking] let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.*

Humility of mind is grace-thinking. Grace-thinking is the state of mind which submits to the divine order and does not exalt itself; it eliminates all human viewpoint from the soul. Grace-thinking is regarding other believers as better than self. It is not done through some system of hypocrisy, hypnosis, group therapy, or the sensitivity training of “cosmos diabolicus”, the devil's world! Grace-thinking is accomplished by the believer being *so occupied* with the Person of Jesus Christ that in his relationship with other people he does not judge, malign, criticize, ridicule or intrude on their privacy. This attitude does not rest on feelings toward others but upon a true understanding of the facts. The believer becomes so relaxed from his relationship with the Lord, that others cannot take away his happiness and joy!

Paul goes on to say in **Philippians 2:4**, *Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.* This is the concept of respect for the privacy of the priesthood of other believers. The believer cannot learn Bible doctrine while another is interfering in his life.

A.T. Robertson says that this literally means not keeping an eye on #1 or not looking out for #1. This is the result of occupation with Christ. Remember that our attitude towards others reveals our attitude towards the Lord! In

Matthew 25:40, *And the King will answer and say to them, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, {even} the least {of them,} you did it to Me.”*

One day in **Acts 9:4-5**, Saul of Tarsus, who became the apostle Paul, had an encounter with TLJC: *And he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who art Thou, Lord?” And He {said,} “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.”* Now, TLJC was in heaven at this time, so how was Saul persecuting him? *“To the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.”* So the key here is unselfishness! How can the believer be so relaxed about other people, minding his own business, and avoid judging and condemning in any way? He must find *someone* who is so much better than anything or anyone else in life so that other people and other things will no longer be an issue. Paul is setting up this principle, under the ministry of the Holy Spirit, to present the Celebrityship of Jesus Christ. The Celebrity of Christianity demands the attention of every believer! He is so wonderful and so marvelous that occupation with Him changes the entire picture! Many believers are petty, bitter, jealous, vindictive, implacable and full of gossip and maligning because they have no concept of the Celebrityship of Christ.

So many “Dog and Pony” substitutes are out there and ridiculous practices and programs have crept into the church. The church has lost sight of Jesus Christ as the only true Celebrity. This condition exists primarily because *pastors are not teaching Bible doctrine*. Occupation with Christ means that the believer harbors no mental attitude sins toward others. The believer builds his happiness on WHO AND WHAT CHRIST IS, not who and what people are. There is no shortcut to this relaxed mental attitude. It takes work! It takes commitment and devotion. It requires the daily function of perception, metabolization and application of Bible doctrine, meaning that the pastor-teacher is consistently communicating doctrine and the believer is learning doctrine on a daily basis. The only purpose for the worship service and for the existence of a pastor-teacher is to enable believers to advance to the highest stage of super-grace — living in the sphere of the recognition of the Celebrityship of Jesus Christ.

In **Philippians 2:5** Paul says, *Have this attitude [this mental attitude] in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.*

The Greek word for attitude, *phroneite*, is the present active imperative of *phroneo*, which means “to think objectively”, “to have a certain frame of mind”. When the believer’s mental attitude meets the standards of the Word of God, he has arrived at the highest and noblest point in the Christian life. Mental attitude divine viewpoint is having the mind of Christ, **1 Corinthians 2:16**. This is the objective and command for every believer. The only way he can obey this command is to have doctrine in the right lobe of the soul, or in what the Bible calls the heart. To do this the believer must begin with Jesus Christ and the true concept of the Word of God. Believers are commanded here to let the mind of Christ be in them! No one can make this happen apart from three things:

1. Having the H.S. leading and directing their soul [rebound, the filling of the spirit].
2. Submitting to a local assembly with an accurate pastor-teacher communicating the Word of God.
3. Positive volition toward doctrine.

This is the only way anyone reaches occupation with Christ and recognition of the fact that He is Lord! Basic doctrine will help the believer to recognize the Celebrityship, Kingship and Lordship of our Lord. Remember, there are many super-grace heroes but *only one true celebrity*.

Philippians 2:5-6 *Have this attitude [this mental attitude] in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God [or as in the Greek, preexisting in the essence of God], did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped [a treasure to be retained].*

The pre-incarnate Christ [before He was born as a man]: who is this Jesus Christ that we love and learn so much about?

John 1:1-3 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Think of it, the same One who was equal to the Father and the Holy Spirit and occupied the highest place of deity “*was made flesh and dwelt among us*”.

2 Corinthians 8:9 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.* This is the One whose name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor. **Isaiah 9:6**, *For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

Think about it:

- He who is called the Son of God was born of a woman and died on a cross.
- He whose name is Wonderful, was spit upon by men.
- He who is called Counselor is rejected by men.
- He who is the Mighty God was crucified on a cross.
- He who is the Eternal Father or literally the Father of Eternity is a Son who learned obedience by the things He suffered.
- He who is the Prince of Peace must suffer Himself the divine indignation and wrath of God.
- He who created all things, **Col 1:16**, was laid in a manger because there was no room for Him in the inn, **Luke 2:7**.
- He who is holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners was made to be sin on behalf of others, **Hebrews 7:26**, **2 Corinthians 5:21**.
- He who said in **John 6:35** “*I am the bread of life*” was Himself hungry, **Matthew 4:2**.
- He who was the giver of the supernatural water of life, **John 4:13**, was Himself thirsty, **John 19:28**.
- He who was dead is alive forevermore, **Revelation 1:18**, “*I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.*” That is why in **Hebrews 13:8** we read, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.*

The Lord is equal to the Father and the Spirit. In fact, the Lord has Himself declared that in **John 5:23**.

John 5:19-23 *Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless {it is} something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also*

does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and greater works than these will He show Him, that you may marvel. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, in order that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

The Son is dishonored when assigned a lower place than the Father. Here's the issue. In the world, the deity of the Father and the Holy Spirit are universally admitted, but the deity of the Son is challenged. This doubt would not have arisen had the Son not become human, but He did. However, the Scripture leaves no doubt as to who TLJC is. From the Old Testament to the new passage after passage reveals His deity:

- **Colossians 1:15** *He is the exact image of the invisible God.*
- **Hebrews 1:3** *And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.*
- **Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
- **Colossians 1:16** *For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created by Him and for Him.*
- **Isaiah 40:3** *Jesus Christ is called Jehovah and Elohim, **Isaiah 40:3**, A voice is calling, “Clear the way for the Lord [Jehovah] in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God [Elohim].”*
- **Isaiah 9:6** *Jesus Christ is called the Mighty God, the Eternal Father.*
- **Isaiah 7:14**, *Jesus Christ is called Immanuel, God with us. **Matthew 1:23**, Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, [which translated means, “God with us”].*
- **John 20:28** *Thomas calls the Lord “My Lord and my God!” Therefore, for the Lord to receive worship from Thomas if He was not equal to God, it would have been blasphemous. This is important because in **Revelation 19:10** John fell at the feet of an angel to worship him and the angel said “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God.”*
- **Titus 2:13** *Jesus Christ is called our great God and Savior.*

- **Hebrews 1:10** *And, you, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands.*

Acts 20:28 says that God has blood, *Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.* Now, God the Father doesn't have blood. God the Holy Spirit doesn't have blood. Only God the Son, TLJC has blood. **Malachi 3:1** says that Jehovah would come to HIS temple, and in **Matthew 21:12-13**, TLJC called the temple His Temple. The temple could not be Christ's Temple, or house, unless He was Jehovah. Consider the Sabbath. The Sabbath was Jehovah's day, **Isaiah 58:13**, and in **Matthew 12:8**, *For the Son of Man is Lord [Jehovah] of the Sabbath.*

The Jehovah's Witnesses, who are really the Devil's witnesses, say that Jesus Christ cannot be Jehovah because Jehovah is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. The Bible says in **Revelation 1:8**, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."* **Revelation 1:9-18** *I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos, because of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."* *And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle. And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire; and His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. And in His right hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."*

How could God the Father or God the Holy Spirit be killed? They could not!

Therefore, who is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End? *It is none other than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* Did TLJC ever say that He was equal to God? He certainly did! In **John 5:18**, *For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.* In **Isaiah 41:4**, Jehovah makes a claim, *“Who has performed and accomplished {it}, calling forth the generations from the beginning? ‘I, the Lord, am the first, and with the last. I am He.’ ”*

The apostle John states that Christ is the first and the last throughout the book of Revelation, in **Revelation 1:17, 2:8, 22:13**. In **John 1:3**, *All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.* Nothing was made apart from Jesus Christ doing the making, as in **John 1:10**, *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.*

Colossians 3:13 and **Acts 5:31** say TLJC forgives sins. **Colossians 3:13**, *Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.* Yet in **Isaiah 43:25, 44:22**, it is only Jehovah that can forgive sin. This is why the scribes and the Pharisees said in **Mark 2:7**, *“Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?”* Let us examine the “attributes” or the “characteristics” of God:

- God is the supreme being of the universe, He is king of heaven and earth. In **Isaiah 46:10**, God says *“My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure.”* And that's why Jesus said in **Matthew 28:18** *“All authority is given to Me in heaven and on earth.”*
- God is also justice, He is the judge, and Jesus is called the righteous judge in **2 Timothy 4:8**. In **John 5:27**, He has all authority to execute judgment.
- God is perfect righteousness.
- Jesus is said to be holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, **Hebrews 7:26**.
- In **1 John 2:1**, He is called *Jesus Christ the righteous.*
- God is love, **1 John 4:8**, there was no greater manifestation of love than the Lord's willingness to lay down His life for mankind, **1 John 3:16**.
- God is eternal, TLJC is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

- God is omniscient, He has all knowledge, Jesus knows all things, **John 18:4, Matthew 9:4**, *And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?”*
- God is omnipresent, everywhere present, TLJC promises to be with you always, **Matthew 28:20**.
- God is omnipotent, He has all power, Jesus is declared to be the Son of God with power, **Romans 1:4**. In **Hebrews 1:3**, *He upholds all things by the word of His power.*
- God is immutable, He doesn't change, **Malachi 3:6**, in **Hebrews 13:8**, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.*
- God is veracity, absolute truth. Jesus said in **John 14:6** *“I am the way, and the truth.”*

Some indirect Biblical implications that Jesus Christ is God and became a man are found in the following:

- **John 1:14** *“He became flesh”*
- **John 17:18** *“He was sent into the world”*
- **Hebrews 2:14** *“He partook of flesh and blood”*
- **Philippians 2:8** *“He was found in fashion as a man”*
- **John 8:23** *“I am from above”*
- **John 17:14** *“I am not of the world”*
- **John 3:13** *“He descended out of heaven”*
- **John 1:15** *“He that cometh after me was actually before me”*
- **John 3:31** *“Jesus came down from heaven”*

All these and more were the very reason He was stoned and rejected by men.

John 8:56 *“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw {it} and was glad.”*

John 8:57-59 *The Jews therefore said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old,*

and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.” Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple.

John 10:30 *“I and the Father are one.”*

John 10:31-33 *The Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?” The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out {to be} God.”*

John 17:1-5 *These things Jesus spoke; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee, even as Thou gavest Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom Thou hast given Him, He may give eternal life. And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do. And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.”*

John 17:5 teaches us the following:

1. Jesus, as the Son, had glory with the Father before all creation.
2. He stripped Himself of that glory to become a servant.

With the believer being provided all this information concerning the deity of Christ, it is shocking how the majority of believers cannot defend the deity of Christ. He is the only Celebrity of the Christian life. All believers should know how to defend Him and prove to others that He is Jehovah.

What is a “celebrity”?

Is it someone who is glamorous, someone who has status in life, someone with great ability or talent? What happens to celebrities in the human realm?

They deteriorate. They lose their ability and their popularity. They grow old. Their glamour fades. And then they die!

A true celebrity is perfect. A believer with any knowledge of doctrine would never make a celebrity of a human being! If he does, however, he enters into iconoclastic arrogance. Iconoclastic arrogance is defined as subjective preoccupation with other people. This results in creating a role model or an icon out of people. More than anything in the world, iconoclastic arrogance

demonstrates the fact that people are divorced from reality because they will not take the responsibility for their own decisions.

Iconoclastic arrogance is four-step process:

1. An excessive admiration or personal love creates an idol out of a person.
2. This is followed by the idol showing their feet of clay (doing something wrong).
3. When the idol does something wrong (real or imagined), there is a reaction by those who created the idol. They become disillusioned or disenchanted.
4. Then iconoclastic arrogance seeks to destroy the image the person has created.

You created the idol, the idol does something wrong, now you do not like the idol, so you seek to destroy the idol. The believer in iconoclastic arrogance is divorced from reality in human relationships because of either ignorance or rejection of Bible doctrine. Iconoclastic arrogance indicates lack of impersonal love for all mankind on the one hand and lack of occupation with Christ on the other hand. TLJC is the only celebrity or idol or icon in the Christian way of life. The believer in iconoclastic arrogance destroys friendship, romance, marriage, business, professional relationships, Christian fellowship, the authority of a spiritual leader of some kind. If iconoclastic arrogance is directed toward a spiritual leader, inevitably it results in the believer's rejection of Bible doctrine. Therefore, iconoclastic arrogance is a major cause for apostasy among believers. Disappointment with friends, loved ones, or those in authority over us is normal, but disenchantment and disillusion from idolizing that person is failure on our part.

Principle: The sooner a congregation has attained impersonal love, the sooner it will overlook the idiosyncrasies, mannerisms, habits, and failures of those in spiritual leadership.

Jesus Christ, our true Celebrity, is perfect; He has neither a beginning nor an end as in **Revelation 1:8**, "*I am the Alpha and the Omega,*" says the Lord God, "*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*"

In **Philippians 2:6**, *who, although He existed in the form of God* [or as the Greek says preexisting in the essence of God], *did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped* [or a treasure to be retained].

The word “existed” is the present active participle of *huparcho* which is from the word *huparchon* which means He “always existed” in the form of God.

There never was a time when He was not God. He is eternal and He never grows old. The word translated “form” in the English morphology does not refer to outward shape but to inner character or essence. From eternity past, Jesus Christ possessed sovereignty, righteousness, justice, love, eternal life, omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, immutability and veracity. He has never changed His essence for anyone or anything. His character remains intact and will continue to do so throughout time and eternity as in **Hebrews 13:8**, *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever*. The true Celebrity of Christianity knew every person in the world from eternity past. He has always known every need, every problem, every heartache, every frustration in the believer’s life. He has gone through the entire angelic conflict without being inconsistent or unstable in any way. That's our Celebrity!

He *is* and *was* and *always will be* God — coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

No one can enter into occupation with Christ or appreciate His character until he understands that Jesus Christ is God.

Also, in Philippians 2:6, our Celebrity did some thinking. In scripture, the meaning of a word is determined by its first use in its context. "Thinking" was used in verse 3 of this passage for "grace-thinking." Philippians 2:6, *Who, although He preexisted in the essence of God, did not regard equality with God [a treasure to be retained].* Not only are Jesus Christ's thoughts infinite, but He thinks about us in terms of *grace*.

There never was or ever will be one believer who has earned or deserved anything from God. His grace-thinking toward us indicates that He is the only source of blessing. If the believer has anything that is wonderful, worthwhile or valuable, it is because Jesus Christ is ultimately the source, no matter what. Now, an intermediate agency may be involved but He is the source! No matter what we receive, He is the source of every blessing which is worthwhile, wonderful, and marvelous, all things come from His grace! This gives Him all the honor and glory.

One fact that characterizes the believer who has the capacity to appreciate the Celebrityship of Christ is that to him the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ is more important than anything else in the world. So, in grace-thinking, our Lord did not regard equality with God a treasure to be retained. The treasure is Christ's deity and His equality with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. There is nothing greater or more valuable than the essence of deity; yet He did not consider His deity **MORE IMPORTANT** than our souls! He considered our souls to be more important than His deity to remain deity alone. So, humanity was added to deity!

After weighing the facts He considered it a treasure not to be retained. The very nature of deity precluded the fact that ANY Member of the Trinity could be judged for sin. For example:

- God is eternal life but eternal life can neither be born nor die!
- God is holy and holiness cannot have anything to do with sin.
- God is omnipresent; omnipresence cannot be reduced to one point, the Cross.
- God is immutable, immutability cannot change. Therefore, since nothing can be subtracted from deity, something must be added.

To be able to go to the Cross and pay the penalty for sin, deity must also become true humanity. And Jesus Christ was *so* occupied with us in eternity past that He did not consider His equality with the other Members of the Trinity a treasure to be retained so He took upon Himself a human nature.

In Acts 2:23, He was *delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God*. In Revelation 13:8, He was *the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world*.

There never was a time when Christ was not occupied with us. We were “the joy”, Hebrews 12:2, that occasioned His Incarnation and His substitutionary death on the Cross with all its shame and pain. We were in His thoughts when all the grace blessings were provided in eternity past. We were the joy that was set before Him in eternity past.

Hebrews 12:2 *Be concentrating on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our doctrine, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame...*

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It's time that some of you wake up and realize how much TLJC values your

soul! Your soul was so valuable that He did not consider His deity a treasure to be retained. He can't change His deity so something had to be *added* to it i.e., humanity, and therefore *humiliation*. He thought it not a treasure to be retained to be equal with God as in Philippians 2:6, *who* [our Lord Jesus Christ], *although He preexisted in the essence of God, did not regard equality with God* [a treasure to be retained].

The word “equality” is very interesting, it is an adjective and it is in the plural, *isa*, which means to be equals. Don't miss the plural here. It is a nominative plural. Our Celebrity is equal not with just one but two members of the Godhead — the Father and the Holy Spirit — the Trinity.

It is important for the believer to realize that he now has the privilege of occupation with Him as Colossians 3:10, *Put on the new self* [this is the new nature] *who is being renewed by means of doctrine according to the image of the One who created him*, and Colossians 3:11, *a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all*.

When the believer reaches this stage — *Christ is all* — the Celebrityship of Jesus Christ will be a reality in his life. And although the believer will have tremendous capacity to enjoy all the blessings that God will pour into his “cup,” they will seem insignificant compared to the One who gave them.

Now, how can the believer become occupied with Him, and what exactly is “occupation with Christ”?

1. The basis for occupation with Christ is the consistent or daily intake of Bible doctrine through the function of perception, metabolization and application of that doctrine.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 *Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord.*

2. With doctrine, the believer has maximum category one love toward God and he is designated *philos Theou* — “friend of God,” or literally, “lover of God.”
3. Occupation with Christ also includes total dependence on the grace provisions of God. Psalms 37:4, *Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.*
4. Stability, confidence, inner happiness and capacity for life are related to occupation with Christ.

Psalms 16:8-9a, *I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices [super-grace].*

Again, in Philippians 2:5-6, *Have this attitude [this mental attitude] in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God [or as the Greek says preexisting in the essence of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped [a treasure to be retained].*

And, in verse 7, Philippians 2:7, *but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.*

The correct translation of Philippians 2:7 is as follows: *But he deprived himself of the proper function of deity, having assumed the form or essence of*

a slave, having become in likeness of mankind [without the old sin nature but with the human spirit]. This verse sets up a contrast between the treasure of Christ's deity and the sacrifice of its function.

The word for “emptied” or “deprived” is the aorist active indicative of the verb *keno*, from which the Doctrine of Kenosis came, which means “to deprive oneself of a proper or normal function,” or “to debase or lower oneself.” In the aorist active indicative here, *kenoo* describes a function in eternity past. This was when Christ made His decision to make the sacrifice.

The actual event did not occur until the time of the virgin birth. The aorist tense also refers to that point of time when our Lord came into the world after a physical body had already been prepared for Him.

Hebrews 10:5 *Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, “Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, but a body Thou hast prepared for Me;”*

In the active voice, Jesus Christ produced the action of the verb by depriving Himself of a proper or normal function of His deity. The indicative mood declares the reality that Jesus came in the flesh. In becoming humanity, Jesus Christ had to deprive Himself of the normal function of deity; but His deity could not change or lose its quality.

Some believers will never realize how important it is to understand that Jesus Christ thought about them in eternity past. He did not suddenly say, when He saw man's sinful condition, “*I think I'll do something for man.*” We think in terms of time, but God is not confined to time. Part of occupation with Christ

is to understand that problem-solving goes back to this principle: Christ was cognizant of our problems billions of years ago. Billions of years ago He was occupied with us, now it's our turn to be occupied with Him. We yell "Help!" in time; Jesus Christ answered before time began!

Isaiah 65:24 *"It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer."*

Deity has certain functions which are totally incompatible with humanity. There is no limitation in the function of deity as a Christophany (post-resurrection appearances of Christ) or a Theophany (preincarnate appearances of Christ); but when deity becomes a true Member of the human race, it is an entirely different concept. Deity "assumed the form" in Philippians 2:6, *Who, although He existed in the form of God.*

The word form is the word *morphen* which indicates His inner essence. This word is in contrast to the word *schemati* found in Philippians 2:8, *And being found in appearance [schemati] as a man, [overt essence].*

If the believer is ever going to understand the uniqueness of the Person of Jesus Christ, and why He is the revealed Member of the Godhead, and why the Holy Spirit glorifies Him today, and why He is the only Celebrity of Christianity, he must be familiar with the Doctrine of Kenosis. The glory of Christ was veiled, but never surrendered. This glory was temporarily revealed on the Mount of Transfiguration, and at the garden of Gethsemane there was just a flash of that glory, John 18:6,

So when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. Matthew 17:1-2, And six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. And

He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

It is always important to remember that TLJC is said to be “non posse peccare”, meaning not able to sin. This refers to the deity of Christ. As God, Jesus Christ is not able to sin. But Jesus Christ is also said to be “posse non peccare”, meaning able not to sin. This refers to the humanity of Christ inside the PPOG for His life! The humanity of Christ was tempted in all ways that we are tempted and far beyond any temptation we have ever experienced, and He remained perfect and He did not sin.

The humanity of Christ was both temptable and peccable; i.e., He had the ability to sin because His humanity had volition. The deity of Christ was neither temptable nor peccable; therefore, He was impeccable. Impeccability qualified our Lord to become a lamb without spot and without blemish. Therefore, He could go to the cross and be judged for the sins of the world. He became “the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”

POINT 2. THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING KENOSIS

The doctrine of Kenosis (the addition of humanity to deity) is a technical doctrine which must be explained in our doctrine of the Hypostatic Union.

Kenosis is derived from the Greek verb *kenoo*, meaning “to deprive oneself of proper function”, in this case, the function of deity. He voluntarily restricted the independent use or expression of His divine attributes in order to comply with the Father's Plan for His life. This does not at all suggest the loss of the characteristics of deity. It is blasphemous to say that any characteristic of deity can be limited, canceled, removed or even emptied out as some of the translations say. Comparing some of the translations will indicate which of

them are incorrect and which are correct.

Let's look at the incorrect ones first:

- Philippians 2:7 *But He emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, {and} being made in the likeness of men* (NAS).
- Philippians 2:7 *But He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men* (RSV).
- Jesus Christ can't empty Himself of deity. The Living Bible is a little bit closer when it says in Philippians 2:7, *But He laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men* (TLB).
- The King James is a little vague, Philippians 2:7, *But He made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men* (KJV) The NIV says in Philippians 2:7, *but He made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness* (NIV).

The correct translation of Philippians 2:7 is as follows: *But he deprived himself of the proper function of deity, having assumed the form or essence of a slave, having become in likeness of mankind* [without the old sin nature but with the human spirit]. This verse sets up a contrast between the treasure of Christ's deity and the sacrifice of its function.

In the incarnate state (Christ on earth), He was both undiminished deity and true humanity in one Person (Hypostatic Union) forever. So Christ, being both true God and true Man, did not empty Himself of His deity. To assume that He did so is a false version of the doctrine of Kenosis. Deity was not changed; it was retained at the point of the virgin birth. Under true Kenosis, Christ did

not surrender any attribute of His deity in coming to this earth.

He voluntarily restricted the independent use or expression of His divine attributes in order to comply with the Father's Plan for the Incarnation. In becoming the God-Man, He was in subjection to the Father's Plan of the Cross. Now, although in His *deity*, Christ is *coequal* with the Father, in His *humanity* he was *submissive* to the Father. To accomplish this, He had to have free will, as in Matthew 26:39, like all members of the human race.

This is why He said in Matthew 26:39, “*My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt.*”

The entire issue in the angelic conflict is human volition, which coexists with divine and angelic volition. In order to submit His will to the Father's, Christ limited His omnipotence. The only way He could do this was to refuse to use His omnipotence, omniscience, etc., for His own benefit or His own glory. His Kenosis was challenged in the great temptation of Matthew 4:1-10 and Luke 4:1-12.

The temptations by the devil were unique; they could only have been directed at the God-Man, the unique Person of the universe. In His humanity, our Lord advanced through the various stages of spiritual adulthood! For example, in Luke 2:40, *And the Child continued to grow [our Lord's humanity] and become strong [He had fantastic physical strength but this refers to His spiritual strength], increasing in wisdom [momentum from metabolized doctrine reaching spiritual self esteem inside the PPOG]; and the grace of God was upon Him.*

In His advance to spiritual independence, or spiritual autonomy, Luke 2:52 says, *And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom [momentum from metabolized*

doctrine] *and stature, and in favor with God* [His personal love for God] *and men* [His impersonal love for all mankind]. This is a reflection of His spiritual autonomy, or spiritual independence!

His advance to spiritual maturity is found in passages like John 1:14 and others, *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and doctrine.* Because He arrived at spiritual maturity, He was qualified for evidence testing which is Satan's cross-examination of every witness presented by God in the historical trial of all fallen angels.

From Matthew's viewpoint, when our Lord began His public ministry He had already attained spiritual maturity and the baptism of our Lord was the beginning of that public ministry! In Matthew 3:16-17, the immediate context of our passage, we read, *And after being baptized* [the water represented the will of God the Father for the humanity of Christ], *Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him and behold, a voice out of the heavens saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."*

These verses indicate that everything has been fulfilled by our Lord Jesus Christ and He is now ready for suffering for blessing or evidence testing which will glorify God in a unique way in the angelic conflict! In the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union, when our Lord was here on earth, Satan did everything in his power to try and destroy the humanity of Christ through temptation and attempted assassination to keep him from reaching the cross.

In all of this, he failed. The work of Christ on the cross destroyed the works of the devil.

There were three unique temptations from Satan to our Lord Jesus Christ during the Hypostatic Union dealing with our subject of Kenosis. These were temptations to His humanity only, for as God he could not be tempted.

The first one is the temptation to rely on His deity rather than the ministry of God the Holy Spirit, Matthew 4:1-4, Luke 4:1-4.

LUKE 4:1-2 *And Jesus [a reference to the humanity of Christ in Hypostatic Union], full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil.*

God the Holy Spirit actually led Him to this spot. When a believer reaches spiritual adulthood, Satan is permitted by God to cross examine every witness that God enters into the historical phase of the angelic conflict! However, it is always handled under the principle that Satan would take unfair advantage of anyone who reached spiritual maturity and God will not permit that!

God the Holy Spirit is *not* the one who puts us to the test, He is the one who *leads us* to the test! The Holy Spirit will lead us to the test but He will not tempt us! The word “tempted” is the Greek word *peirazo* which means to make proof of, to test, to scrutinize, to examine, to try or test one's faith, virtue, or character by enticement to sin or to act *independently* of God.

Why was Satan allowed to test TLJC? An *inferior* creature, Satan, was allowed to put our Lord through a test, because there is an angelic conflict! Remember 2 Corinthians 2:11, *Make sure no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.*

If TLJC uses His own power as God just once during this test, then He cannot go to the cross and die for the sins of the whole world, therefore, He will not only be tempted like us but He will be tempted far beyond anyone of us!

Hebrews 4:15 *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things, yet without sin.*

The devil is the agent who does the cross-examination in evidence testing! The Holy Spirit leads the *mature believer* to the test but Satan is the one who gives it! The wilderness, which really refers to the desert, can be very beautiful, very wonderful and very hostile, all at the same time. It can also be a place of great loneliness if you're out there alone.

The humanity of Jesus Christ in all of these temptations was always in a state of complete loneliness and isolation from any type of encouragement from any source except what God provided for Him and is also provided for us:

1. The filling of the Spirit.
2. Bible doctrine in the stream of consciousness, mind, the heart and the soul.
3. Functioning under the plan of God.

1 Peter 2:18-21, *Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,*

Jesus Christ depended upon His human nature to handle His problems. On earth, Jesus Christ had to solve all of His problems with a system that *we* can use. We have everything necessary to execute the most phenomenal spiritual life that has ever existed:

- The two power options: the filling of the Spirit and Bible doctrine or doctrinal orientation to life
- The three spiritual skills: the filling of the Holy Spirit, metabolized Bible doctrine circulating in the stream of consciousness, the execution of the PPOG.
- The problem solving devices include:
 1. Rebound technique
 2. The filling of the Spirit
 3. The faith-rest drill
 4. Grace orientation
 5. Doctrinal orientation
 6. A personal sense of destiny
 7. Personal love for God the Father
 8. Impersonal love for all mankind
 9. +H or sharing the happiness of God
 10. Occupation with Christ as the priority solution to life.

Now, outside of the cross, this will be the most difficult of all of the temptations, and there were some great ones. In fact, the cross was so great that our Lord even offered a prayer from His human nature as a high priest, He prayed to the Father to take this cup from Him. This was to be accomplished in His human nature by means of living the spiritual life that God had provided and empowered by God the Holy Spirit. Likewise, the believer does not need to lean on people but can solve all his own problems!

There must be no transfer of His divine attributes to His human nature. If this had happened there never would have been salvation because Jesus Christ would not have been able to be judged for the sins of the world. Believers who spend their lives praying for miracles are not advanced in the spiritual life. Believers living in the predesigned plan of God do their best to use the assets of the spiritual life to glorify God.

Principle: It is an insult to God to ask God for a miracle when He has given you the most fantastic spiritual life. You can handle anything with that!

This is why Peter said what he did in 1 Peter 5:6 *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.*

1 Peter 5:7-9 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit [sound mind], be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, by being firm in your doctrine, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

Notice, there's always someone else.....somewhere else....who's facing similar experiences of suffering. 1 Peter 5:10, *And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.*

This happened to Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, *And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me — to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*

Principle: To maintain the status of perfection in His human nature, Jesus Christ must use the assets of the *spiritual life* to resist temptation to sin and act independently of God. Our Lord must reach the cross in a state of perfection made possible through the function of living the spiritual life without transfer of even one divine attribute from the divine nature to the human nature in Hypostatic Union. Now the attack will be on the humanity of Christ not the deity, deity cannot be tempted. But, if Jesus Christ calls on His deity to solve the problem He is no longer the perfect human sacrifice because He operated with His deity *outside* of the Father's plan. Jesus Christ would not have been qualified to go to the cross and die for the sins of the whole world if at one time He called upon His deity to help His humanity out in any way.

In Luke 4, with these temptations, Satan tried to put so much pressure on our Lord's human nature that He would use His divine nature would come to the rescue. However, remember that in eternity past, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit each provided all the things our Lord would need in His human nature so that he would never have to use His divine nature. Just like God the Father and God the Holy Spirit has provided you with the filling of the Spirit, the power of Bible doctrine, your very own portfolio of invisible assets and the problem solving devices!

In other words, what Satan promoted was for TLJC to perform a miracle rather than live the spiritual life that God has provided. Just like today Satan promotes miracles rather than living the spiritual life that God has provided. In fact, that's one of the signs of Satan.

Our Lord warned us of this in Matthew 12:39 *An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign.* In 2Thessalonians 2:9, we are told about the Antichrist, *that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders.* In Revelation 13:13, *He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.*

Revelation 13:14 *And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, and in Revelation 16:14, for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.*

Luke 4:1-2, *And Jesus [a reference to the humanity of Christ in Hypostatic Union], full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by*

the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry.

In Luke 4:3, *And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."*

Satan lives to exalt himself and to oppose God and he also does all that he can to draw mature believers away from the plan of God. Satan began with a verbal examination. He uses true theology, a true point of doctrine! One of Satan's most powerful deceptions is to use truth and mix in his religious and legalistic lies! He said "*Ei huios ei tou Theou*" which actually means, "If you are the Son of God, and you are". The verb "to be" is translated "you are" and it is the a present active indicative of *eimi* indicating that Satan recognized that Jesus was the Son of God!

Satan understood that Jesus Christ was undiminished deity and true humanity in one person forever,

and that knowledge was necessary for this most fantastic and unusual temptation. Satan even understood how the human nature was functioning in the spiritual life.

For 30 years Satan had been observing the humanity of Jesus Christ and how He was growing in grace and knowledge and using the two power options of the Christian way of life. However, all Satan wanted to do was to cause the divine nature of Christ to come and *help* the human nature and to cause the humanity of Christ who had been using the two power options to operate independently of them. Notice this: many people think that when Satan attacks, he attacks at the weakest point. However, Satan is actually attacking

at the point of *strength* in the spiritual life. In the church-age the greatest attack is not the obvious one, personal sins, the greatest attack is to attack the believer at the point of his *strength* and the strength is what was given to him with the two power options of the spiritual life.

For example, Satan has attacked the filling of the Spirit which many believers think is an emotional experience. In fact, there are some who believe the filling of the Spirit is a second blessing or feeling and what they call “liquid waves of love”, whatever that means. But it is not!

The filling of the Spirit is the first power option of the Christian way of life. John 4:24, *God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.* Therefore we have a command in Ephesians 5:18, *Be filled with the Spirit,* and in Galatians 5:16, *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.* Satan has attacked the filling of the Spirit which many believers think is an emotional experience and he also has attacked the daily intake of doctrine. There has always been and there still is an attack on the daily intake of Bible doctrine. We live in a day and age when the kingdom of darkness has all kinds of influence with apostate believers who have a sounding board of some kind or another!

The Bible tells us that the demons recognize and believe that God exists in James 2:19, *You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.*

Only three temptations to the humanity of Christ are mentioned. However, there were more than three according to Luke 4:1-2, *And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil.* He was tempted by the devil for forty days.

The devil continues in Luke 4:3, “*tell this stone to become bread.*”

Will the Lord Jesus Christ, who has the power to turn the stone into bread, use that power and operate independently of the power of the Holy Spirit or rely on God to meet His needs? If Jesus Christ used His deity and His own power to satisfy His hunger by turning the stone into bread, He would have stepped outside of the PPOG for His life, the power system provided by God the Holy Spirit! He would not have deprived Himself of the proper function of His deity by turning a stone into a piece of bread.

He would be committing the *same sin* that Satan did originally, choosing self-will over God's will.

Satan would have persuaded the deity of Christ to act independently of the indwelling Holy Spirit and the PPOG. Our Lord in Hypostatic Union would be acting *independently* of the plan of God the Father, enabling Satan to say to God, “*Alright, what's the difference, even your own Son chooses to act independently of You!*” just as Satan did in Isaiah 14:12-14.

Our Lord Jesus Christ voluntarily restricted the independent use of His divine attributes, *but certain functions of His deity continued to function*, such as holding the universe together, in Hebrews 1:3, *He upholds all things by the word of His power.*

This doctrine of Kenosis says in effect that during the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union, our Lord Jesus Christ *voluntarily restricted* the independent use of His divine attributes in compliance with the Father's plan. He lived among men with their human limitations and by so doing, He established in His humanity a spiritual life which is an example for every Church-age believer.

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TLJC depended on the provision and power of the Holy Spirit, the power of Bible doctrine, and the power of the problem solving devices, and gave up any independent exercise of certain divine attributes while living among men with their human limitations. Being full of grace and doctrine, John 1:14, the humanity of Christ extrapolated problem solving devices from His own soul. The humanity of Christ had to learn, metabolize, and circulate doctrine in His soul just as the believer must. He concentrated on the problem solving devices to prevent the conversion of the outside pressure of adversity into the inside pressure of stress in the soul. Remember the principle, adversity is inevitable, stress is optional!

The problem solving devices used by the humanity of Christ were:

- The filling of the Spirit
- The faith rest drill
- Grace orientation
- Doctrinal orientation
- A personal sense of destiny
- Personal love for God the Father
- Impersonal love for all mankind
- Sharing the happiness of God.

(The believer has two additional problem solving devices — rebound and occupation with Christ.)

Our Lord did not depend on His deity to execute the Father's plan, He depended on the One who provided the plan. He depended on what the Father

provided. What the Father provided for Jesus Christ, He has provided for the believer. God the Father provided the Spirit without measure to TLJC.

John 3:34 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.

Therefore, in the doctrine of the Divine Decrees, God the Holy Spirit made a decision to sustain the humanity of Christ in Hypostatic Union. God the Holy Spirit has made the same decision to sustain all believers! They are not perfect. They cannot be coerced to want the Holy Spirit's help.

The prophecy of the ministry of God the Holy Spirit to the human nature of Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union is given in Isaiah 42:1, "*Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one {in whom} My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him.*" This is illustrated in Matthew 12:17-21 and Matthew 12:28.

Matthew 12:10-28 And behold, {there was} a man with a withered hand. And they questioned Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—in order that they might accuse Him. And He said to them, "What man shall there be among you, who shall have one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it, and lift it out? Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand!" And he stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other. But the Pharisees went out, and counseled together against Him, {as to} how they might destroy Him. But Jesus, aware of {this,} withdrew from there. And many followed Him, and He healed them all, and warned them not to make Him known, in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, might be fulfilled, saying, "Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen; My Beloved in whom My soul is well-pleased; I will put

My Spirit upon Him, And He shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel, nor cry out; nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. A battered reed He will not break off, and a smoldering wick He will not put out, until He leads justice to victory. And in His name the Gentiles will hope.” Then there was brought to Him a demon-possessed man {who was} blind and dumb, and He healed him, so that the dumb man spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed, and {began} to say, “This {man} cannot be the Son of David, can he?” But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.” And knowing their thoughts He said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself shall not stand. And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then shall his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? Consequently they shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

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Matthew 12:28, contains the protasis of a first class condition, “*But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God*” [and I do says the protasis]. In this passage the religious leaders of Israel were harassing Jesus Christ, speaking evil of everything that He was doing. This was a temptation, too. Jesus said in Matthew 12:28, “*But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God [and I do], then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*”

Notice, our Lord Jesus Christ performed miracles through the power of the filling of the Spirit not through His deity! He did not perform these miracles in the power of His divine nature. He could have performed all kinds of miracles but He didn't.

Why? Because, under the Doctrine of Kenosis, He was depending on the filling of the Spirit as the first power option in the prototype spiritual life. He was testing and proving and living the spiritual life that God has provided for all of us with the two power options. The first one is the filling of the Spirit which will be tested in the first temptation. The second power option is the

Word of God, and that will be tested in the second temptation.

Principle: No power or attribute of the divine nature must be transferred to the human nature of Jesus Christ to provide food for Himself miraculously.

The function of the unique spiritual life is greater than a miracle. Remember that Satan is the greatest genius ever created by God. Note what the greatest genius attacked.....Kenosis and the unique spiritual life of the church-age. Satan does the same thing today to the believer. For example, should the believer deny himself as the Lord denied himself under the principle of Kenosis? He certainly should! The Lord says in Matthew 16:24-26, *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself [a type of Kenosis, denying self of the proper function of humanity for the cause of Christ], and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

Luke 4:1-3 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days; and when they had ended, He became hungry, and the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

Principle: There is no such thing as a problem that the believer will ever have that cannot be handled by the spiritual life. He has a perfect spiritual life made available to him because it was tested in every possible way by our Lord Jesus Christ. It was tested by the humanity of Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union.

The whole point is that Jesus Christ never crossed the line using the divine nature as the solution. Had Jesus Christ brought in the divine nature to solve the problem of hunger by turning the stones into bread, there would have been no Hebrews 10:14, *For by one offering He has brought to completion for all time those who are being sanctified.* There would have been no salvation! There would have been no spiritual life! There would have been no resurrection and eternal happiness for man!

Principle: Only the resources of the soul can focus on the solution and avoid pre-occupation with the problem. Kenosis is a doctrine that has been completely neglected by teachers of the Word of God. Understanding Kenosis is part of our heritage, something that has never existed before.

The believer is an ambassador for Christ in 2 Corinthians 5:20, *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ.* As an ambassador, he is to fulfill two doctrinal principles:

1. 2 Timothy 2:15 *Study to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.*
2. 1 Peter 3:15 *But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you.*

It is important for the believer to understand the great mystery of God coming in the flesh, as Paul said in 1 Timothy 3:16, *And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh.* There are some very serious commands concerning the doctrine of the Hypostatic Union and Christ's coming in the flesh.

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

1 John 4:2-3 *By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.*

2 John 1:11 *For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.*

This explains why Peter said in 1 Peter 2:21 *For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.* It would be unfair and unjust for God to ask the believer to follow in the steps of His Son if His Son used His deity to live the spiritual life, as in Ephesians 5:1, *Therefore be imitators of God* [a reference to Jesus

Christ], *as beloved children; Ephesians 5:2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*

In these temptations, Satan has successfully emphasized emotion in the spiritual life to neutralize thinking. Luke 4:3, *“If You are the Son of God, [and I know you are] tell this stone to become bread.”*

Principle:

1. Satan's objective in the first two temptations was to attack, discredit, and neutralize the spiritual life. This would destroy the divine plan for the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union, the greatest crisis period in all of human history.
2. To attack at the point of strength, the two power options, Satan had to persuade Jesus to use the power of His divine nature to solve the temptation of the human nature. Satan was assuming that Jesus Christ would snap under the challenge. *“You are the Son of God,”* he said, *“so prove it now!”* *“I know that you're the Son of God but you haven't proved it, turn these stones into bread.”* Only arrogance would fall for that.
3. The second temptation, to jump 450 feet into the Kedron valley from the highest point on the portico of Herod's temple, would have been certain death for the humanity of Jesus Christ unless He used the power of His divine nature to give Him a safe and easy landing. That would be rejecting the power of the Word of God. Satan distorted Bible doctrine.

Psalms 91:1-16 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!" for it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper, and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day; of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or of the destruction that lays waste at noon. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; {but} it shall not approach you. You will only look on with your eyes, and see the recompense of the wicked. For you have made the Lord, my refuge, {even} the Most High, your dwelling place. No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent, for He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and cobra, the young lion and the serpent you will trample down. Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him {securely} on high, because he has known My name. He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him, and honor him. With a long life I will satisfy him, and let him behold My salvation.

By using only *one* phrase out of Psalm 91 he distorted the Word of God portraying it as a good thing to do. Jesus Christ's jumping 450 feet into the valley of Kedron, landing on the rocks and having a safe landing would have been very impressive to people. Impress people.....that's Satan's temptation.

Satan rejects not only the power of the Spirit but the correct interpretation of the Word of God. His interpretation of everything in Psalm 91 was correct except for one line, which he twisted just enough to make it a system of evil.

4. The first temptation was designed to bypass the filling of the Spirit (the first power option in the spiritual life) by substituting the function of our Lord's own omnipotence which was a part of His divine nature. This would have destroyed the Hypostatic Union.

5. If the Lord performed a miracle, the divine nature of Jesus Christ would have set aside the function of his human nature and its utilization of the two power options. Both temptations are designed to set aside the two power options of the spiritual life and substitute two miracles from the divine nature of Jesus Christ.

If Jesus failed any of these tests and succumbed to the temptation, there would be no cross and no salvation. There would be no unique spiritual life. There would have been no Kenosis or impeccability of the humanity of Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union. Everything in human history depended upon the humanity of Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union.

Our Lord did use some miracles to establish His identity as Messiah and to fulfill certain signs of His Messiahship. For example, He turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana in John 2:1-11.

The miracle of turning water into wine was not related to the fulfilling of the spiritual life for the Church-age but it was a sign of His Messiahship.

John 2:1-11 And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and Jesus also was invited, and His disciples, to the wedding. And when the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to Him,

“They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, “Draw {some} out now, and take it to the headwaiter.” And they took it {to him.} And when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, and said to him, “Every man serves the good wine first, and when {men} have drunk freely, {then} that which is poorer; you have kept the good wine until now.” This beginning of {His} signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

These were legitimate uses of His divine nature and did not contradict or in any way conflict with the subject of Kenosis and the spiritual life used by the humanity of Christ.

Every believer must learn to distinguish between the spiritual life as represented in the humanity of Christ and miracles which have other objectives portraying Messiahship. In the miracle of turning water into wine, our Lord used His divine nature in Hypostatic Union as a gracious gesture to present a fact of doctrine to the wedding guests that Jesus Christ is Messiah.

When God the Father imputed a soul and a spirit to Jesus Christ’s biological life, God Almighty was inside a human body and was still holding the universe together with His divine nature. This is a miracle from His own divine sovereignty! Jesus Christ created the universe and Jesus Christ is holding it together!

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Colossians 1:16 *For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him.*

Colossians 1:17 *And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

Luke 4:1-4 *And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days; and when they had ended, He became hungry. And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God [and you are says the first class condition], tell this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"*

Our Lord responded to Satan with Bible doctrine in this test. Instead of performing miracles under His own power, our Lord used the greatest power ever known in the history of the human race. He used Bible doctrine in all three parts of his testing. In Luke 4:4, the Lord said *"It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"* In Luke 4:8, the Lord said *"It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'"*

Luke 4:12, *"It is said or written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

Our Lord continued to be hungry, and met Satan's temptation with the

quotation from Deuteronomy 8:3, “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.*”

By this, our Lord established the fact that Bible doctrine had #1 priority in His life, and He used the power of Bible doctrine. Hebrews 4:12, *For the word of God is alive and powerful.* But, when a believer uses Bible doctrine and makes correct application and advances in the plan of God through the use of that Bible doctrine, that is the greatest power and the highest function that any member of the human race can attain. Is Bible doctrine the greatest power a believer can use? Why does Satan hate doctrine so much?

Bible doctrine is the very thinking of Jesus Christ, 1 Corinthians 2:16, and it is the Word of God which is a reference to God Himself, John 1:1. Therefore, whenever a believer uses Bible doctrine in this life, he is operating in a power that Satan hates because it only comes from God. Satan hates anything from God!

Our Lord met the challenge with doctrine! Luke 4:4, *And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’ ”* He didn't use false solutions to suffering, and there are two of them: prayer and miracles.

To pray for strength in time of suffering is absolutely blasphemous since under the PPOG, strength is provided in another way, through the power of the Spirit, Acts 1:8, and the power of the Word of God, Hebrews 4:12. This type of test only comes from Satan when the believer is ready, having the strength from spiritual growth!

The believer should not pray for a miracle or the removal of the suffering as Paul did in 2 Corinthians 12 concerning the thorn in his flesh! A miracle is a

false solution, just as prayer is...when God provides suffering to bear! It is more difficult for God to give maximum blessing to a believer in suffering because it involves the volition of the believer to have faith and trust in the character and nature of God. Satan hates when God is trusted by His creatures! And so a miracle is a simple thing and doesn't prove anything. What does prove something is when the believer advances to spiritual maturity and can take any pressure provided by Satan.

Principle: Remember there is an allotted time in the believer's life ordained by God for him to go through undeserved suffering...**REPEAT**...go "through" it!

Philippians 1:29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.

2 Timothy 2:3 Suffer hardship with {me,} as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Luke 4:4 "*Man shall not live by bread alone.*" Let us consider this word "Man" and the correlation between the first Adam and the last Adam, TLJC. It's interesting that man was created perfect in perfect environment and Adam failed and lost that perfect environment.

Now, TLJC, the last Adam, is placed in a desert or a wilderness to be tested by the devil just as the devil tested the first Adam. However, the second Adam, Jesus Christ won the victory that the first Adam lost. The temptation of Christ takes place in the desert. The wilderness is the place where Paradise was regained. Adam was given a position to maintain, which was rulership and dominion over the world, which he lost. With the appearance of the second Adam, the trial for the human race continues. This is another reason why Satan wanted Jesus Christ to use His deity, His own power as God, because there would be no similarity between the first and the last Adam. The scene of the temptation, the wilderness or the desert, represented the waste and barren land that man produced when he sinned against God. It represented the desolation and wastefulness which sin brought upon the inner life of man. The garden and the desert are two most opposite poles of natural life.

The first Adam began in the perfect environment of Paradise, called the Garden of Eden. It was there in the garden of Eden that Adam's temptation occurred. As long as he obeyed the command of God, he could dwell in the Garden and his outward surroundings would correspond to his inner life. When he sinned, the wilderness and the desert replaced the Garden of Eden because the entire creation groans for the revealing of the sons of God.

Romans 8:19-22 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

The second Adam, TLJC, took up the conflict exactly where the first Adam had left it, in the wilderness, the desert. He does battle with Satan and wins

everything back.

We read something very interesting in Mark 1:12-13, *And immediately the Spirit impelled Him {to go} out into the wilderness. And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.* Mark tells us something the other Gospels do not.

Notice that Jesus was with the wild beasts. The first Adam was with the animals as well. In fact, he named the animals. The Lord was with them as Adam had been before he sinned. In Him, the second Adam, the dominion of Genesis 1:26 and 28 was brought back.

Genesis 1:26 *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

Genesis 1:28 *And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is alive and powerful.*

The believer must remember that he is dealing with an invisible enemy, Satan, and all of those demons that operate under his command are invisible to him!

He is dealing with satanic systems and with a genius far greater than anything the believer could ever cope with in his mind...and yet he has been given a power that is greater than all of them! Tragically today most believers are rejecting that power!

1 John 4:4 *You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*

Rather than pick up a stone and perform a miracle, our Lord picked up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and responded to Satan with that Word! When the Lord said, *“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God”*, He was revealing a very important principle which is overlooked by so many. Food is essential for life but the ultimate purpose of food is to allow the believer to perpetuate his spiritual advance.

TLJC, Who had gone 40 days without eating food, found all the strength He needed in Bible doctrine and the spiritual life that He was pioneering. How was our Lord sustained in His humanity?

John 4:31-34 says, *In the meanwhile the disciples were requesting Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” The disciples therefore were saying to one another, “No one brought Him {anything} to eat, did he?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.”*

What kept the humanity of Christ going in the wilderness was “food” that the disciples did not know about. He was fulfilling the oldest principle in the Bible regarding the Word of God under the first mention principle in Job 23:12, *I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.*

In Luke 4, our Lord didn't rebuke, lash out or judge the devil. There was no anger, no indignation, no outburst of emotion. He had nothing to prove. He simply relied on the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Victory comes through the Word! If the believer does not know the Word, he does not know the Lord!

This principle is emphasized in Ephesians 6:11, *Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to hold your ground against the schemes or the strategies of the devil.* The believer is never told to rebuke the devil, he is told to hold his ground when the devil attacks.

Ephesians 6:13 *Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, hold your ground.*

Ephesians 6:14 *Hold your ground therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness.*

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1 Peter 5:9 *Hold your ground against the devil by being firm in your doctrine.*

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James 4:7 *Hold your ground against the devil and he will flee from you.*

In all of these passages, the object is Satan. We are on the *defense* when it comes to Satan and his demons *not* on the offense! There is no place whatsoever for trying to fight or rebuke the devil!

Jude 1:9 *But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."*

The believer is commanded to hold his ground because that is what the enemy wants to take from him, the ground which he has been gaining in the spiritual realm. The minute the kingdom of darkness sees him beginning to make positive decisions toward the plan of God and Bible doctrine, obstacles are placed in his path.

Principle: All spiritual victory is related to the Word of God.

Our Lord used the equipment God made available to Him for His conflict with Satan. Although the believer would never be tempted like this, he is tempted in a similar way. Believers are constantly being tempted to rely upon their old sin nature rather than the power God has provided in the spiritual life. They are tempted to substitute human good for divine good, to be independent from the spiritual life that our Lord was pioneering. *"Do it yourself"* is human viewpoint. In fact, it is also legalism, whereas the Father's provision is grace!

Satan did not depend upon the provisions of God the Father in eternity past, as great as they were. TLJC is being tempted not to depend on the sufficiency of the grace of the Father for His daily needs.

The second test from Satan involved our Lord's relationship to the plan of God

for His life, Luke 4:5-8.

Luke 4:5 And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

Luke 4:6 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish."

There are two parts to this temptation: First, "*Avoid the purpose of the Father's plan for the incarnation and bypass the cross and I'll promote you,*" says Satan. Second, "*Avoid the purpose of the Father's plan for the Second Advent; take the crown or the kingdom now before the cross!*"

The Father's purpose is for TLJC to go to the cross and *die* for the sins of the whole world! The Father's purpose is to deliver all the kingdoms of the world to Christ at the point of the Second Advent *not* the First! The devil makes a legitimate offer to TLJC. Satan *does* have the right to make this offer and he will continue to do so throughout human history!

Luke 4:6 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish."

What follows is Satan's desperation in a losing battle to tempt our Lord to avoid or bypass the cross and move to the crown. In reality, without the cross there can be no crown. This time Satan uses a third class condition, unlike the first class condition used in Luke 4:3, "*If you are the Son of God [and you are]...*"

Luke 4:7 *“Therefore if You worship before me [third class condition, maybe you will, maybe you will not], it shall all be Yours.”* The devil does have the right to bless whomever he wishes, *for it has been handed over to me [by Adam], and I give it to whomever I wish.*

Luke 4:8 *And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’ ”*

First Principle: The Lord Jesus Christ is pointing out to Satan that every creature’s obligation and loyalty is to the plan of God and serving Him.

Second Principle: The phrase, *it shall be all yours*, referring to the kingdoms of this world, illustrates the fact that Satan is seeking to hinder the believer from serving God by offering the believer the things of this world.

Our Lord passes this test and temptation by replying, *“You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.”*

The third and final test involves our Lord's relationship to the Word of God. In the first two temptations, Satan was defeated by the Word, and since the power is in the Word and since TLJC was relying on the Word, Satan tries to undermine the Lord Jesus Christ’s power. Satan now attacks the weapon that was used against him (Satan), which is the Word! Satan attacks the Word by quoting the Word, distorting the Word and taking scripture out of context. Distortion of the Word has led many sincere and ignorant believers astray.

The first test had to do with our Lord's relationship to the ministry of Holy Spirit, Who is the third Person of the Trinity. The second test had to do with our Lord's relationship to the plan of God the Father, the first Person of the Trinity, for His life. This third test concerns our Lord's relationship to the Word of God, the second Person of the Trinity.

Luke 4:9 And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here."

The word "pinnacle" is the noun *p-teur-gion*, which means the edge or the highest point on the temple. Satan took Jesus Christ to the highest point on the temple — Herod's porch — which was a 450-foot drop. Luke 4:9, "*If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here*" [which is an idiom meaning "jump"].

Luke 4:10-11 "for it is written, 'He will give His angels charge concerning You to guard You,

and on {their} hands they will bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone.' "

By quoting Deuteronomy 8:3 in the first test, TLJC is saying that He would live by the Word of God! By quoting Deuteronomy 6:13 in the second test, TLJC is saying that He would live by the Word of God! Satan now counters by quoting Psalm 91:11-12, "*if you will live by the Word of God then jump from this porch into the valley below,*" correct doctrine, false application!

He is trying to persuade the humanity of Christ to jump 450 feet onto the rocks! Satan quotes

Psalms 91:10-12, *“No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent, for He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”* This Psalm was probably written by Moses and therefore Satan is following the pattern of our Lord's quotation from Deuteronomy 8:3 and 6:13!

The order of the three tests found in Luke 4 are:

1. The first test, turning a stone into bread, had to do with our Lord's relationship to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Who is the third Person of the Trinity.
2. The second test, giving the world in turn for worship, had to do with our Lord's relationship to the plan of God the Father for His life, the first Person of the Trinity.
3. The third test, misquoting scripture, has to do with our Lord's relationship to the Word of God, the second Person of the Trinity.

The order is different in Matthew 4:1-4. The first test is turning stones into bread. In Matthew 4:5-7, the second test is misquoting scripture which has to do with our Lord's relationship to the Word of God. In Matthew 4:8-10, the third test, giving the things of the world in turn for worship, had to do with our Lord's relationship to the plan of God the Father.

What is the correct order? We don't know and it's not important! What is important is that we understand the temptations.

Satan quotes scripture, Psalms 91:10-12, *“No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent, for He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, that*

you do not strike your foot against a stone.”

Psalms 91:1-16 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust! For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper, and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day; of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or of the destruction that lays waste at noon. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; {but} it shall not approach you. You will only look on with your eyes, and see the recompense of the wicked. For you have made the Lord, my refuge, {even} the Most High, your dwelling place. No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent. For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and cobra, the young lion and the serpent you will trample down. Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him {securely} on high, because he has known My name. He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him, and honor him. With a long life I will satisfy him, And let him behold My salvation.”

This is a Psalm for a mature believer *not* a Psalm to be used to tempt God. This Psalm was written by Moses and Satan is following the pattern of our Lord's quotation from Deuteronomy 8:3 and 6:13 which were also written by Moses! Satan stated a true doctrine but it was derived from a false application of Psalm 91:10-12. This is why we are told in 2Timothy 2:15, *Study to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.*

Luke 4:13 And, when the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

Satan fled because of James 4:7 *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

We do know that angels from heaven came and ministered to our Lord after the devil left according to Matthew 4:11, *Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.*

The word “minister” is *diakoneo*, which means to serve, to wait upon someone, to wait at a table and to offer food and to drink to the guests. TLJC had the finest meal of His life! This was a celebration after a victory!

POINT 3.

OUR LORD’S MENTAL ATTITUDE DURING THE DISPENSATION OF THE HYPOSTATIC UNION.

Philippians 2:3 *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind [grace-thinking] let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;*

Philippians 2:4 *do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

Philippians 2:5 *Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.*

“Have this attitude” is the present middle imperative of the verb *phroneo*, *phroneite*, meaning to think, to be of the same mind, to understand. A more accurate translation is *Keep on thinking this in you which was also in Christ Jesus*.

Philippians 2:6-11 *who, although He preexisted in the essence of God, did not regard equality with God a treasure to be retained. but He deprived Himself [Kenosis] of the proper function of deity when He received the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of mankind. In fact, although having been discovered in outward appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death [substitutionary spiritual death], that is, the death of the cross. Therefore, God has also highly exalted Him and has bestowed on Him a royal title which is above every royal title, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

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In Philippians 2:5, the believer is told to *have* the same mental attitude that our Lord had during the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union. Precedence for our mental attitude does not go back to Israel and the 10 Commandments, but to the humanity of Jesus Christ and the spiritual life that our Lord was pioneering during the dispensation of the H.U.

The first two points of the doctrine of the Hypostatic Union covered the *first* phrase in Philippians 2:7, *but He deprived Himself [Kenosis] of the proper function of deity...*

Philippians 2:7 *But he deprived himself of the proper function of deity, [How?] taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men [without the old sin nature but with the human spirit].*

So in the phrase “*He deprived himself of the proper function of deity, taking the form of a bond-servant.*” the word for “bond-servant” is the noun *doulou* which means a slave or a servant. It is used here because the Lord (*Kurios*) becomes the slave (*doulos*), the ultimate reversal of roles. He took upon Himself the form of a slave. He didn't just become human, He came to serve. In fact, He had to deal with this problem among His own disciples.

Matthew 20:28 *Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Him with her sons, bowing down, and making a request of Him. And He said to her, “What do you wish?” She said to Him, “Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left.” But Jesus answered and said, “You do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?” They said to Him, “We are able.” He said to them, “My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on {My} left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father.” And hearing {this,} the ten became indignant with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and {their} great men exercise authority over them. It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

This is the meaning the word *doulos* in Philippians 2:7. This verse teaches that the Lord deprived Himself of the proper function of His deity when He received the form of a bond-servant. The word “form” is the noun *morphen* which refers to His human nature, or when He took upon Himself the form of a slave, but He did not give up or change His eternal essence. In other words, He did not show His deity, although it was present. Christ made Himself dependent on the Plan of the Father and operated within the *limitations* of His humanity, even though it was joined to deity. There never was or ever could be a Celebrity like Jesus Christ! What He gave up in restraining His essence is phenomenal and inscrutable, in other words, difficult to fathom or understand.

Christ voluntarily, through an act of His own volition and sovereignty, took upon Himself the form of man, true humanity. *This was humiliation for deity.* In fact Christ, Who is eternal God, voluntarily hid His deity and yet He prayed for glorification in John 17:5 for our benefit!

John 17:1-5 These things Jesus spoke; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee, even as Thou gavest Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom Thou hast given Him, He may give eternal life. And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do. And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was."

John 17:17-22 "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth. As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, {art} in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me. And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one."

Christ did not empty Himself of His divine glory as illustrated by the Transfiguration, Matthew 17:2; hence, the glory of deity was *veiled* but *not surrendered*, as in Matthew 17:1-2, *And six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.*

The union of Christ to unglorified humanity was a factor in His humiliation. There was nothing wrong with His humanity; it was perfect, and it never changed. During His thirty-three years on the earth, Jesus used His volition constantly. Even though His temptations were greater than any that the believer has ever had or ever will have; and even though they became greater as He came closer to the Cross, He never committed one act of personal sin!

1 Peter 2:22 *He committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth.*

This was His mental attitude, the way that He thought. This is the type of mental attitude the believer is to function under—not sinless perfection but “*thinking doctrine*” as much as possible.

Christ's humanity was not glorified at the point of the Incarnation, He was subject to temptation, pain, weakness, sorrow, limitation; but His attributes of deity were not surrendered or used to benefit Himself.

Although Christ was omnipresent, He took long journeys on foot. The omniscience of Christ was revealed in His prophetic ministry, but was never used to make His path easy or to gain something for Himself. Jesus experienced physical and mental growth and suffered the inconveniences of His day. Although Christ was always God, and was always deity, He became true humanity.

His two natures are contrasted in John 1:1,14 and Isaiah 9:6. John 1:1, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* John 1:14, *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.* Isaiah 9:6, *For a child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us.* Note that the child (humanity of Christ) is born, not conceived, and the Son (deity of Christ) is given.

In Philippians 2:7, *But he deprived himself of the proper function of deity, having assumed the form or essence of a slave, having become in likeness of mankind*, “likeness” is the word *homoion*, which has the connotation of “similarity”. This Greek word is used because Christ was not absolutely like man. He did not have an old sin nature, and He possessed a human spirit at birth.

Jesus Christ in the flesh seemed like any other human being. No man could see His inner perfection or deity; it had to be understood through doctrine!

This was the problem of the Pharisees and other religious Jews; they saw only His humanity and refused to accept Him as Messiah. This is why the Hypostatic Union is a pivotal doctrine which must be understood and mastered before the believer can appreciate the Celebrityship of Christ.

One of the inscrutable mysteries of the Cross is what happened to the deity of Christ while His humanity was bearing our sins. He had to remain in Hypostatic Union. The Bible does not explain what His deity was doing as His humanity was being judged. What *is* known is that the only true Celebrity who ever lived suffered the ultimate in humiliation and excruciating agony for all mankind.

If the believer doesn't understand its implications, he will never understand the Celebrityship of Jesus Christ.

Most believers are on a “blind date.” They are saved, but they have never bothered to really get to *know* their Savior. Instead, they pick up emotional substitutes through ritual, through music, through fellowship, through the “Dog and Pony” show, and all the other sad substitutes, none of which constitute true love for Jesus Christ. True love for Jesus Christ must come through DOCTRINE!

Note the secret of the greatness of our Lord's humanity in Philippians 2:8, *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.* How did Jesus Christ humble Himself? First, the humanity of Christ relied on the ministry of the Holy Spirit who indwelt Him from the cradle. Isaiah 11:2, *And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the respect for the Lord.* Second, He relied on Bible doctrine, Luke 2:40-52.

By the time He was twelve years of age, Jesus Christ was a super-grace Person. At 12 years old our Lord was, in Luke 2:46-47, *In the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.* In this context, the expression of His deity or the independent exercise of His divine attributes was not a treasure to be retained because He was willing to provide this so-great salvation.

Christ had to become obedient unto death, Philippians 2:8, *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.* While sovereignty is not subject to obedience, Christ did not use His sovereignty in opposition to the Father's Plan. Why? Because in this context, the expression of His deity, or the independent exercise of His divine attributes, was not a treasure to be retained.

Christ as God is also eternal life, but eternal life could not die on the Cross. The only way He could die was to refrain from using His deity to perpetuate His life. As perfect righteousness, the very thought of coming into contact with sin was detestable to Christ. When He bore man's sins in His own body on the tree, 1 Peter 2:24, He abstained from using His righteousness or else He

would have rejected the awful judgment.

In completing the mission of the First Advent, our Lord redeemed and reconciled man while at the same time He propitiated God the Father. He could not have done so if He had used His own deity independently of the Father's Plan. As believers, we are free, Gal 5:1, but in order to purchase that freedom, Jesus Christ had to temporarily give up His freedom.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The first phrase of this verse introduces of the Doctrine of Impeccability. Though Christ had the outward appearance of a man, He did not possess the old sin nature, therefore He was impeccable.

Impeccability is the doctrine of Christology which recognizes that during the entire course of the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union and forever, our Lord Jesus Christ did not sin though He was tempted in His humanity and the temptations were real.

The first Adam was temptable and peccable. This means that Adam in the Garden of Eden was temptable and capable of sinning through the use of his own volition in response to the temptation.

Like the Last Adam (Jesus Christ) he was tempted from the outside. Adam did not have a sin nature and TLJC did not have a sin nature therefore, they were both tempted from without not within. Christ in Hypostatic Union was, therefore, temptable but impeccable. The temptations were real but our Lord was able not to sin.

1 John 3:5 Indeed, you know that He was revealed [First Advent] in order that He might carry our sins; in fact, sin was not in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin as a substitute for us so that we might become the righteousness of God through the agency of Him.

While God the Father was making Christ to be a sin offering on our behalf Christ did not sin. Christ did not actually become a sinner, but was punished for the sins that we committed. The punishment belonged to man, but He accepted the punishment for man. By the end of the believer's life, he has faced possibly one-fourth of all possible temptations known to the human race. Our Lord resisted 100% of all possible temptations.

From Satan, our Lord received every possible temptation that a human being could face. Our Lord was not only "tempted like we are," but far beyond that. No one in all of human history will ever come close to enduring the temptations which our Lord endured during the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union. He never once succumbed to any temptation to sin, or human good, or evil; all which are equally rejected by God. Our Lord arrived at the cross totally free from sin.

With the possession of an interim body in heaven, minus the old sin nature, and with the resurrection body at the rapture, the believer in eternity will

become impeccable. In the meantime, impeccability is related to one person only, the Lord Jesus Christ, Hebrews 13:8, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.*

Jesus Christ's humbling of Himself has been greatly misconstrued in our day and age. Jesus Christ did not look or act like a hippie — that is not “humbling oneself.” As the God-Man, He is the Originator of the laws of establishment, and in the flesh He was the personification of every concept of establishment.

To “humble themselves”, most of man's efforts are nothing more or less than ascetic self-effacement.

Asceticism is a part of the old sin nature. Self-effacement is the energy of the flesh at best, legalism, and of course, reversionism at worst.

The phrase “He humbled himself” is the constantive aorist active indicative of *tapeinoo*, which is *etapeinosen*, indicating that the entire time Jesus lived on the earth, from the moment of the virgin birth to the resurrection and ascension, He was characterized by what is called “humility.”

True humility is shown in John 2:14-16, *And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers seated.*

And He made a scourge of cords, and drove {them} all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the moneychangers, and overturned their tables; and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a house of merchandise.” and in

Matthew 21:12, *And Jesus entered the temple and cast out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling doves.*

So the “meek and mild” Jesus also threw the money-changers out of the Temple, and that was also a part of His humility! The “meek and mild” Jesus also had some interesting things to say to the religious crowd in His day and age in the following verses:

- Matthew 23:13, He said “*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from men; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.*”
- In Matthew 23:17, He called them “*Fools and blind men;*”
- Matthew 23:28 “*You outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*”
- Matthew 23:33 “*You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell?*”
- John 8:44 “*You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.*”

Humility is not standing round-shouldered with lowered eyes, shuffling your feet and whispering “Give all the glory to God.” Humility is not determined by appearance, dress, manner of speech, or tone of voice. It is a mental attitude of grace orientation. It is Bible doctrine in the soul; and this doctrine causes the believer to recognize that everything depends on who and what *God* is.

Pride, on the opposite side of the spectrum, is a mental attitude sin. The

proudest people in Christianity are those who think they can do something to gain the approbation of God or to be filled with the Spirit; or those who think they must do something to be forgiven by God, using some system of penance or feeling sorry for their sins. Jesus Christ had the true mental attitude of humility. He was perfect in His humanity; and for perfect humanity to come in contact with the sins of the world is maximum humiliation.

Another factor in the Celebrityship of Christ comes into view—the uniqueness of His grace orientation. The humiliation of Christ reached its peak at the Cross.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

“Obedient” means that He recognized the authority of the Cross and the Father's Plan. The Cross is the place where Jesus Christ had to ultimately submit to the Father or there would have been no salvation. The Cross was His objective, and it represented authority over His life. The obedience was not to the Cross itself, but to His spiritual death on the Cross. Although Christ knew that He would be judged for the sins of the world, He was still willing to be submissive “to the extent of death.”

The word “death” in this passage is the noun *thanatou* in the Greek, and almost without exception, this word refers to spiritual death. Most people think that when the Scripture says “Christ died for our sins” as in Romans 5:8, and 1 Corinthians 15:3, it refers to His physical death. If the believer thinks this, he is still a long way from understanding and appreciating the Celebrityship of Christ!

When Jesus said in John 19:30, “*Tetelestai*” {It is finished}, He was ALIVE;

He was speaking!

He kept saying, “*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*” The answer to His question is found in 2 Corinthians 5:21, *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* Upon the completion of bearing man’s sins in His own body, 1 Peter 2:24, He said, “*Tetelestai*” (perfect tense of *Teleo*) - “It is finished in the past, with the result that it keeps on being finished forever!” Salvation was completed *before* He died physically. Jesus Christ simply dismissed His spirit; His physical death it was painless. From His own soul He dismissed His human spirit into the presence of God, Luke 23:46, “*Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit.*” *And having said this, He breathed His last.*

The horrible agony was in His spiritual death. While many thousands of people were crucified by the Romans during the history of S.P.Q.R. (Senatus Populusque Romanus), no one ever died as Jesus died. He died twice on the Cross. The Person was unique; the work was unique; His death was unique!

POINT 4. THE EXALTATION OF JESUS CHRIST IN HYPOSTATIC UNION

God has bestowed optimum exaltation and graciously bestowed the highest of Titles on the person of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:9 *Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.*

Now, the physical death of Christ was necessary for His physical resurrection, as He could not go back to heaven in a body of corruption.

Because of the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross, God the Father, Author of the Divine Plan of Grace, has highly exalted and glorified the humanity of Christ. Philippians 2:9 says, *Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.* The word “therefore” is the conjunction *Dio* and it refers to what our Lord did in Philippians 2:6-8.

Philippians 2:6-9 *Who, although He preexisted in the essence of God, did not regard equality with God a treasure to be retained. But he deprived himself of the proper function of deity, [How?] taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men [without the old sin nature but with the human spirit]. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [Dio] Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.*

This is a reference to His strategic victory in the angelic conflict: the resurrection, ascension and session of Jesus Christ. God the Father has graciously bestowed on Jesus Christ the highest office. The word “name” is the noun *onoma* plus the definite article “to” is an idiom which means “office, rank, title, dignity, fame, reputation, authority, character and integrity.” It is a maximum expression of the Celebrityship of Jesus Christ. The highest office is KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Revelation. 19:16). This is the same word used in Hebrews 1:4, *Having become as much better than the angels, as he has inherited a more excellent name [title] than they.*

The Williams translation says concerning Hebrews 1:4, *Thus proving Himself to be as much superior to angels as the title He has inherited is superior to theirs.* Names were very important in the ancient world, unlike today. The name reflected the character and integrity of an individual; many individuals

had their name changed as they matured.

Onoma, or name, could also refer to a reputation as in Revelation 3:1 “*And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven spirits of God, and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.'*” The Lord Jesus Christ didn't inherit a new name but a new title, new authority, and new character in His humanity. The Biblical proof of this is the Doctrine of the Session, or the phrase “*Sit down at my right hand, until I make thine enemies a footstool for thy feet.*” The Doctrines of the Resurrection, Ascension and Session describe the Celebrityship of Christ in His resurrection body.

POINT 5. THE HYPOSTATIC UNION AND RESURRECTION

The first resurrection in all of human history is that of our Lord at the end of the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union. The word “resurrection” means the return of a person from the dead in a body of incorruption and who *never dies again (never being subject to death)*.

“Resuscitation” means the return of a person from the dead in a body of corruption and who eventually dies again; e.g., Lazarus, Paul (1 Corinthians 15), two boys in the Old Testament, Elijah raising the widow's son, etc.

The resurrection body is eternal and permanent, superior to that of angelic creatures, Daniel 12:2, John 5:24-29, 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, Revelation 20:6,13.

In the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union, Jesus Christ died physically on the cross, was resurrected by the omnipotence of God the Father and omnipotence of the Holy Spirit, ascended, and sat at the Father's right hand. The victory was complete — the strategic victory of the angelic conflict and the termination of the great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union. He now has a victory to give not only to the church-age believer, but also to all the Old Testament saints at the Second Advent.

Christ died twice on the cross that we might be born twice. He died spiritually to provide salvation. He died physically because His work was finished. Our Lord's physical death was unique. In His physical death, our Lord Jesus Christ had a trichotomous (three-fold) separation: His body went into the grave, His human spirit went into the presence of God the Father in the third heaven, His human soul went into the first compartment of Hades, Paradise, where all the Old Testament believers resided until the resurrection of Christ.

When the believer dies, his soul and spirit go into the presence of the Lord in heaven, accompanied by Christ who indwells him. For the believer is said to be in 2 Corinthians 5:8, *Absent from the body and face to face with the Lord.*

There is no splitting up of the soul and the spirit in the death of the believer.

For example, when the work of salvation was finished, our Lord said to the Father in Luke 23:46, *And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit."* And having said this, *He breathed His last.* His human spirit went into the presence of the Father.

In Luke 23:43 He said to the dying thief, Luke 23:43 *"Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."* His soul went into Paradise, a compartment of Hades. Psalm 16:10 prophesied this, *For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; Neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to undergo*

decay. Acts 2:27 says His soul came out of Hades.

There are two reasons why His soul went to Hades:

1. To take all the Old Testament saints to heaven in Ephesians 4:8, *He led captive a host of captives.*
2. He went to preach to the fallen angels who were in prison in 1 Peter 3:19 *And by means of the Spirit, the soul of our Lord went down to Tartarus, where He made the victorious proclamation to certain fallen angels now in prison.* While He was there, according to 1 Peter 3:18-21, the Holy Spirit guarded the soul of our Lord in Hades.

Ephesians 1:20, Col 2:12, 1Th 1:10, Romans 6:4, and 1 Peter 1:21 all say that God the Father raised Him from the dead. But Scripture also says the Holy Spirit raised Him from the dead, as in Acts 2:24, Romans 1:4, Romans 8:11, and 1 Peter 3:18. Both God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are the agents of the resurrection.

At the first resurrection, the resurrection of the humanity of Jesus Christ, the omnipotence of the Father sent our Lord's human spirit through billions and billions of light years of space to His body in the tomb. Simultaneously, the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit returned His human soul from Hades to His body. And then as the Lord said in John 2:19 *“Destroy this temple [His body], and in three days I will raise it up.”* Now rejoined in the resurrection body, our Lord walked through the stone.

Later on, an angel rolled away the stone so that the world could see and verify the resurrection.

Although Jesus Christ had the power to bring Himself back from the dead, in obedience to the command of the Father and in reliance upon the omnipotence

of the Holy Spirit; our Lord in Hypostatic Union voluntarily restricted the independent use of His omnipotence and established the pattern for the successful fulfillment of the PPOG in this Church Age.

Likewise, the power that resurrected Christ has been made available to every believer from the omnipotence of God the Father and the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit as in Ephesians 1:20, *which power He put into operation by means of Christ when He [God the Father] raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand.* and Romans 6:4, *Therefore, we have been buried with Him [Christ] through baptism into death [baptism of the Spirit] in order that, as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.* This newness of life in which the believer is to walk is the power that the humanity of Christ functioned under during the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union.

Both 2 Corinthians 13:4, *For indeed He was crucified because of weakness [ours], yet He lives because of the power of God.* and Philippians 3:10, *that I may come to know Him and the power of His resurrection.* show that Christ did not use His own divine power in His resurrection until He was told to by God the Father. During the incarnation, our Lord voluntarily restricted the independent use of His own divine attributes, including His omnipotence, in compliance with the Father's plan for the incarnation and the strategic victory of the angelic conflict.

This is taught in John 10:17-18, *“For this reason, the Father loves Me, because I lay down My soul that I might receive it again. No one has taken it [My life] from Me; but I lay it down from the source of Myself. I have the power to lay it down [i.e., the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit sustaining Him in the PPOG]; I have the power to receive it again. This command I have received from the Father.”* He left the world by an act of His own volition, the only human being who ever did so apart from suicide.

The great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union turned history around. Now, in the Church Age, the same omnipotence of God the Father and omnipotence of the Holy Spirit is available to the believer in the mechanics of the PPOG and in the promises and guarantees in his portfolio of invisible assets.

Each one of the Christocentric dispensations terminates with resurrection, giving great significance to them: the first Christocentric dispensation is the great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union. It terminates with the resurrection, ascension, and session of the humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ. The second is the great power experiment of the Church Age. It terminates with the resurrection of the royal family of God.

The resurrection of Christ is part of His strategic victory of the angelic conflict, 1 Corinthians 15:20-25. 1 Corinthians 15:20, *But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.* The body is asleep waiting for resurrection. The soul never sleeps. The believer has an interim body while waiting in heaven for his resurrection body.

1 Corinthians 15:21-25 *For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.*

Resurrection was the beginning of the glorification of TLJC in Hypostatic Union!

POINT 6. THE ASCENSION AND SESSION

The ascension is the doctrine of Christology pertaining to the transfer of our Lord's true humanity from planet earth to the third heaven in a resurrection body. The session is the doctrine of Christology pertaining to the glorification of our Lord's humanity at the right hand of the Father.

These definitions are built on the foundation of understanding the Hypostatic Union and are related to and based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

If TLJC remained on earth, He would have a *limited* glory, but when He went to the third heaven He became superior to all creation, and therefore has *unlimited* glory.

After the resurrection of our Lord's humanity, He remained on earth for forty days, Acts 1:1-3, *The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over {a period of} forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.*

The ascension of Jesus Christ in His resurrection body occurred on the fortieth day. The ascension and session of Christ are predicated on the capabilities of the resurrection body. It can travel horizontally and vertically at unlimited speed, and is capable of unlimited space travel. Our Lord traveled horizontally during His forty days on planet earth. His body also passed through closed doors.

The ascension of Christ demonstrates the vertical travel of the resurrection body, moving with ease through the atmosphere of the earth, the galaxies of the stellar universe, and billions and billions of light years in an instant, entering into the third heaven, the abode of God. Upon arrival in the third heaven, our Lord was seated at the right hand of God the Father; this is the doctrine of the Session.

He then received His third royal title “King of kings, Lord of lords, the Bright Morning Star.”

It was at this time that the human race was elevated higher than the entire angelic creation. Originally, man was created higher than the animal creation and lower than the angels.

Psalms 8:1 O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Thy name in all the earth, Who hast displayed Thy splendor above the heavens!

Psalms 8:2-9 From the mouth of infants and nursing babes Thou hast established strength, Because of Thine adversaries, To make the enemy and the revengeful cease. When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, The moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than [nor God, but the gods, a reference to angels], And dost crown him with glory and majesty! Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet, All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Thy name in all the earth!

The King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Bright and Morning Star was His third royal title. His first two titles are the Son of God and the Son of David. Because His third royal title had no accompanying royal family, the Church Age was inserted for the calling out [ekklesia] of a royal family. There would be a change made from David's Psalm in the book of Hebrews. The change is found in Hebrews 2:5 which says, *For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.*

Hebrews 2:6 *But one has testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that Thou rememberest him? Or the son of man, that Thou art concerned about him?"* is a quotation from Psalms 8:4 *"What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him?"*

Hebrews 2:7-8 *Thou hast made him for a little while lower than the angels; Thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, And hast appointed him over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet* is a quotation from Psalms 8:5-6, *Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God, And dost crown him with glory and majesty! Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet.* Added in Hebrews 2:7 is, *Thou hast made him for a little while lower than the angels.*

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Only for a little while.

David never said that. Why? Because Old Testament believers were not elevated higher than angels because they are not in union with Christ like New Testament saints!

Hebrews 2:8-10 *Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.*

Because of our union with Christ and because of the ascension and session, Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of God. That is why Hebrews 1:3 says, *And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

Church-Age believers are, in Ephesians 2:6, *Raised up with Him, and seated with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus.*

Hebrews 1:4-13 *having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent title than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say, "Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee"? And again, "I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me"? And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him." And of the angels He says, "Who makes His angels winds, And His ministers a flame of fire." But of the Son He says, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.*

"Thou hast loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy companions." And, "Thou, Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands; They will perish, but Thou remainest; and they all will become old as a garment, and as a mantle Thou wilt roll them up; as a garment they will also be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will not come to an end." But to which of the angels has He ever said, "Sit at My right hand, Until I make Thine enemies A footstool for Thy

feet?”

God the Father never said this to any angel, but only to Jesus Christ. It is very significant that God the Father said this to the humanity of Christ in a resurrection body. Right now, Church-Age believers in their human bodies on earth are inferior to angels. In the future, in their resurrection bodies, they will be totally superior to angels. Our Lord's session established this.

Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

The doctrine of Ascension and Session is the missing link between the resurrection of Christ and the Christian way of life. Something new had to be created to accompany this new third royalty of Jesus Christ, a new royal family. His new royalty had to be a new spiritual species.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

The dispensation of Israel was interrupted seven years short of its completion to make the omnipotence of the Father and of the Spirit available to all believers. The royal family began on the Day of Pentecost, the first day of the Church Age, with the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The chronology of events was:

1. Resurrection
2. Forty days on the earth
3. Ascension ten days before the Church Age began
4. Christ seated at the right hand of the Father

The exact number of days is known because the resurrection occurred on the Feast of the First Fruits. The Feast of Pentecost would occur fifty days later. On the fortieth day our Lord ascended. He said the baptism of the Spirit and the beginning of the Church Age would occur very soon (ten days later).

Both the ascension and session of Christ were accomplished in His resurrection body. However, though coequal and coeternal with God, it was the true humanity of Christ that was seated at the right hand of the Father. These two doctrines of ascension and session combine to form the climax of the strategic victory of Christ in the angelic conflict.

The historical account of the ascension is given in Acts 1:4-11.

Acts 1:4-11 And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," {He said,} "you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their

sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men [angels] in white clothing stood beside them; and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

While the angels were still talking our Lord was already in the third heaven. He traveled billions and billions of light years in just a few seconds.

After His ascension, His session fulfilled the prophecy of Psalms 110:1 *The Lord [God the Father] said to my Lord [God the Son], "Sit down at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."* Jesus Christ had to be seated to resolve the strategic victory of the angelic conflict.

His deity is omnipresent, everywhere, imminent and transcendent. It was His humanity that was seated at the right hand of the Father.

Because it is very important, this prophecy is quoted a number of times in the New Testament, Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:42-43, Acts 2:34-35, Hebrews 1:13, 10:13.

The strategic victory of the great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union is the key to the importance of the ascension and session of Jesus Christ. The resurrection, ascension, and session all deal with the true humanity of Jesus Christ. Just as only the humanity of Christ could provide man's salvation by receiving the judgment for his sins in His own body, so only the humanity of Christ could be resurrected, ascend, and sit at the right hand of God the Father.

The humanity of Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union is now exalted and glorified

at the right hand of the Father where His posture is one of being seated.

Acts 2:32-36 This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: “ The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet.’ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Acts 5:30-31 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Philippians 2:9 Therefore also, God has highly exalted Him and given Him a title which is above every title, that at the title of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of the Father.

The strategic victory of Jesus Christ in the great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union is related to the award of His third royal title.

- His first royal title is related to His deity. His title is “Son of God.” His royal family is God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.
- His second royal title is related to His humanity. His title is “Son of David.” His royal family is the Davidic dynasty.
- His third royal title is related to His resurrection and ascension. His title is “King of kings, Lord of lords, Bright Morning Star.” His royal family is in the process of being completed, made up of every Church

Age believer.

The believer is not simply a child of God; he is a royal child of God.

1 Peter 3:22 *Who [Jesus Christ] is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven after angels and authorities and powers had been subordinated to Him.*

With the resurrection of Jesus Christ, all angelic creatures including fallen angels, are subordinated to Him in His humanity! That fact is very important. In His deity, Jesus Christ is the creator of angels.

In His humanity, He was made lower than angels, Hebrews 2:7. But now in His resurrection, He is higher than angels in His humanity! And some day in resurrection bodies, Church-Age believers will share that same privilege experientially. Being in union with Christ, those believers are already positionally higher than angels. But in resurrection bodies, they will be experientially and physically higher than angels.

Ephesians 1:22, *And He [God the Father] has subordinated all [angelic creatures] under His feet. Furthermore, He appointed Him [Jesus Christ] ruler over all things to the Church.*

POINT 7. THE HYPOSTATIC UNION AND THE BIG GENUFLEX

The big Genuflex is the interim event between the Rapture and the Judgment Seat of Christ when every knee will bow before TLJC. This is a part of the glorification of TLJC in His Hypostatic Union. Right *after* the rapture or the resurrection of the church and *before* the judgment seat of Christ where winners will be rewarded, there is a period of time when TLJC will be worshipped by all believers in their resurrection bodies.

Therefore, the big Genuflex is both the glorification of the Father's plan and the recognition of our Lord's victory over sin and Satan which was bestowed on Him at His session. At this time, the entire royal family is present, and they confess to the victory of TLJC over sin and over Satan.

Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the title which is above every title, that at the title of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Because the believer His family, he must have a resurrection body as Christ does. In resurrection body, the entire royal family will identify the Head of the family, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Believers will be thinking and talking about the Lord Jesus Christ in the moment of greatest happiness. This explains the relationship between Romans 14:10-12 and Philippians 2:9-11.

Romans 14:10-12 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live," says the Lord, "every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.

The big Genuflex is the moment of maximum +H which is perpetuated forever. It is followed by the Judgment Seat of Christ. The believer's happiness is made meaningful by receiving his eternal rewards and decorations. However, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, he will never lose this fantastic happiness even if he receives no reward due to his failure in life.

The confession of the royal family immediately following the Rapture can be understand based on the concept of Christ's battlefield royalty, for all will be in total awe of Him. This moment will be the fulfillment of the believer's knowledge of doctrine, and the realization of the purpose of his new birth and why he lived for Him while on earth. Each believer will personally praise the strategic victory of the angelic conflict and relate it to his very purpose for living, Romans 14:11. Blessing and rewards which glorify Christ fulfill prophecies in the Old Testament, Isaiah 53:12b, *Then He will distribute the spoil to the great ones.*

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Christ was willing to suffer on the cross so that the believer might share in the plunder or spoil of His victory. The big Genuflex, the acknowledgment of Christ in eternity, will be the greatest moment of worship in history, full of great singing. In time, believers acknowledge Christ by the daily intake of doctrine. In the eternal state, he will acknowledge Him through worship.

Something very interesting is said about our Lord in Philippians 2:10, *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth.* The phrase that "every knee should bow" is the recognition of the Celebrityship of Christ by both believers *and* unbelievers.

The unbelievers are those who did not do it the easy way. The easy way is through salvation and afterwards the communication of doctrine by the pastor-teacher to the believer, so that he can reach super-grace and occupation with the Person of Christ, the unique Celebrity. The hard way is described as the unbeliever being on his knees at the end of time. He has rejected Jesus Christ. He has used the Name of Christ in profanity and derision or he has ridiculed Him or has been passive and indifferent toward Him.

But the time will come when the Celebrityship of Christ will be manifest to all creatures in the universe. And there are three areas specified:

1. In heaven — angels and believers
2. On earth — unbelievers
3. Under the earth — unbelievers in Torments, as well as fallen angels in Tartarus

Philippians 2:11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

God the Father's Plan originated billions and billions of years ago — sometime in eternity past. The epitome of the expression of God's Plan is the God-Man-Savior. A perfect Plan from a perfect Father glorifies a perfect Son. His Plan was that all creatures would come to recognize the Celebrityship of Christ — first, by the Gospel, leading a person to Phase One (salvation); next by reaching super-grace in Phase Two (the believer in time); or finally, but not His perfect desire, through a rude awakening in Phase Three (eternity).

Where does this leave believers who are ignorant of doctrine and who do not recognize the Celebrityship of Christ? They are completely missing the Plan of God for their lives, thus out on the greatest and most wonderful blessing

life can offer! This need not be the case in any believer's life.

Christ CAN become a reality NOW through doctrine.

“Christ is all and in all” (Col. 3:11), or literally, “Christ is all things because *He is the source* of all things.” Beginning with doctrine, He is the grace source of everything we have of value.

Were it not for Jesus Christ, the believer would have nothing and be nothing. Bible doctrine in the soul counteracts the old sin nature, demon influence and every other adverse circumstance in life.

It is the basis for reaching the capacity to love. When the believer has maximum capacity for Category One love under super-grace living, he has a new focus, a new concentration, a new motivation, a new happiness—in short, a fantastic life!

As for unbelievers, before they get to the Lake of Fire, they will recognize and finally acknowledge, the hard way, that Jesus Christ is the **ONLY CELEBRITY** of the universe. Unbelievers are going to hell on their knees saying “**JESUS IS LORD!**”

Principle: There is nothing greater that a believer can do during the course of this life than to live in the sphere of the Celebrityship of Jesus Christ — the highest status in experiential Christianity!

POINT 8. THE NECESSITY FOR THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST

Why did Christ have to become a human being?

a) Jesus Christ became true humanity to do the will of the Father, Hebrews 10:5-10.

Hebrews 10:5-10 *Therefore, when He entered the world [at virgin birth], He said [Ps 40:6-8], “You [God the Father] do not desire sacrifice and offering [soteriology of the ritual plan of God for the dispensation of Israel], but You have prepared for Me a human body; You have not been propitiated by whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin [sin offering]. At that time [virgin birth] I said [from His deity], ‘Behold, I have arrived; (in the scroll of a book it stands written about Me [Old Testament prophecies]) to accomplish Your will, O God.’ ” After saying the above, ‘Sacrifices and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have not desired, nor have You been propitiated by them’ (which sacrifices are offered according to the law), then He said, ‘Behold, I have arrived to execute Your will.’ He has abrogated [taken away] the first [the Mosaic Law] that He might establish the second [PPOG for the Church]. By which will [purpose, plan] we [new spiritual species, royal family of God] have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.”*

The ritual soteriology of the dispensation of Israel utilized animal sacrifices which portrayed the salvation work of Christ on the cross. But these animal sacrifices were shadows, not capable of propitiating God the Father. When our Lord says in Hebrews 10:7, *“I have arrived to accomplish Your will, O God”*, it was spoken from the deity of Christ in Hypostatic Union. It refers to the election of Jesus Christ related to the salvation or the incarnation plan of God. In Hebrews 10:9, *He takes away the first in order to establish the second*, means the PPOG for the Church Age supersedes the ritual plan of God for Israel.

The new spiritual species of the Church Age replaces the new racial species of Israel, i.e., until the second Advent, when Israel will again become a client nation to God. The substitutionary spiritual death of Christ on the cross and resultant efficacious unlimited atonement fulfills and abrogates the ritual authorization of the Mosaic Law.

b) Jesus Christ had to become true humanity to be the Savior of the world, Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 2:14-15.

As God, Jesus Christ could not have anything to do with sin except judge and reject sin. Sovereignty is not subject to death. Eternal life cannot die, and physical death was necessary for our Lord's resurrection. Only humanity could bear man's sins.

Jesus Christ had to become true and perfect humanity in order to receive the imputation and judgment of man's sins on the cross, 1 Peter 2:24, *and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*

c) Jesus Christ had to become true humanity to be the mediator between God and man, Job 9:2-6, 32-33; 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

Jesus Christ had to be equal with both God and mankind to be a mediator between both parties. Therefore, Jesus Christ had to be both undiminished deity and true humanity in one person forever.

Job 9:2-3 In truth I know that this is so, But how can a man be in the right before God? If one wished to dispute with Him, He could not answer Him

once in a thousand times.

Job 9:32-33 For He is not a man as I am that I may answer Him, that we may go to court together. There is no umpire between us, who may lay his hand upon us both.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time.

d) Jesus Christ had to become true humanity to be a priest.

A priest must be a man in order to represent man before God. Jesus Christ became true humanity to be our high priest after the order (or pattern) of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:4-5 Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils. And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest's office have commandment in the Law to collect a tenth from the people, that is, from their brethren, although these are descended from Abraham.

Hebrews 7:14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.

Hebrews 7:28 For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect

forever.

Hebrews 10:5 *Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME."*

Hebrews 10:14 *For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.*

e) Jesus Christ had to become true humanity to be a king and rule forever.

He had to be the son of David to fulfill the Davidic covenant to Israel. 2 Samuel 7:8-16 *Sam 7:8-16 "Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, I even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you. When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.' "*

Psalms 89:20-37. "I have found David My servant; with My holy oil I have anointed him, with whom My hand will be established; My arm also will strengthen him. The enemy will not deceive him, nor the son of wickedness afflict him. But I shall crush his adversaries before him, and strike those who hate him. My faithfulness and My lovingkindness will be with him, and in My name his horn will be exalted. I shall also set his hand on the sea And his right hand on the rivers. He will cry to Me, "You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation." I also shall make him My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. My lovingkindness I will keep for him forever, and My covenant shall be confirmed to him. So I will establish his descendants forever and his throne as the days of heaven."

"If his sons forsake My law And do not walk in My judgments, if they violate My statutes and do not keep My commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes. But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him, nor deal falsely in My faithfulness. My covenant I will not violate, nor will I alter the utterance of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. His descendants shall endure forever and his throne as the sun before Me. It shall be established forever like the moon, and the witness in the sky is faithful." Selah.

¹

All verses are taken from the *New American Standard Bible*, unless otherwise noted. Corrected translations by Pastor Robert R. McLaughlin from the original Greek or Hebrew text appear in brackets.

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