

## **Divinity and Humanity of Christ**

### **Objectives**

To explain the belief of our church about the Nature of the Lord Jesus Christ and how He is Divine and Human at the same time

### **References**

- The Era of Ecumenical Councils (Asr El Magamee) Fr. Kyrollos El Antouny
- The Nature of Christ. (H.H. Pope Shenouda the 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- The Divinity of Christ (H.H. Pope Shenouda the 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Many Years with Peoples' Questions (H.H. Pope Shenouda the 3<sup>rd</sup>)

### **Scriptural Verse**

“Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh.” (1 Timothy 3:16)

### **Lesson Outline**

The Orthodox Concept regarding the Nature of Christ:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Divine God Who took to Himself a perfect manhood of the Virgin Mary by the action of the Holy Spirit.
2. The Holy Spirit purified and sanctified the Virgin's womb so that the Child to whom she gave birth would inherit nothing of the original sin; the flesh formed of her was united with the Only-Begotten Son. This unity took place from the first moment of the Holy Pregnancy in the Virgin's womb.
3. As a result of the unity of both natures-the Divine and the human-inside the Virgin's womb, one nature was formed out of both: "The One Nature of God the Incarnate Logos"
4. His Divine nature is one with His human nature yet without mingling (wheat and rice), confusion (milk and tea) or alteration (chemical reaction).
5. It is a complete hypostatic union and His Divinity did not depart from His Humanity for a single moment or a twinkle of an eye.

### **Humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ**

Our Lord Christ called Himself the Son of Man denoting His full Humanity because He was to carry out redemption on behalf of man.

- The Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. (Matthew 18:11).
- The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of man and they will kill Him and the third day He will be raised up." (Matthew 17:22,23;26:45)
- The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and Chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again." (Mark 8:31)

The Humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ was complete in everything, susceptible to all human weakness except sin:

- He prayed: to teach us how to pray, and to struggle in prayers (Luke 22:44).

- He felt tired, hungry, and thirsty: He took what was ours, took the same nature sentenced to death so that He might in it die on our behalf and redeem man.
- The Divine nature is not liable to suffering yet Our Lord endured all sufferings due to His humanity, and was physically crucified. We say “You who have tasted death physically in the sixth hour”. He, the man, united with the Godhead, physically died and His death provided unlimited atonement.
- And though His Godhead is beyond fatigue, our Lord Christ did not permit His divinity to prevent His humanity from being tired or bearing pain.

## **Divinity of Christ**

As "Son of Man" denotes the human nature of Christ, also "Son of God" denotes His Divinity. However, our Lord Jesus Christ used the term "Son of Man" on several occasions where He meant "Son of God"

- The Son of Man is in heaven and on earth (John 3:13).
- The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath day" (Matthew 12:8).
- The Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins (Matthew 9:6).
- The Son of Man is the One Who shall Judge the world (Matthew 16:27).
- The Son of Man has the Glory of God (Matthew 16:27).
- The Son of Man calls the Angels "His angels" and the elect "His elect" (Matthew 24:29-31).
- The Son of Man is the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:14-16).

Our Lord did not say I am God and did not ask people to worship Him because He would be stoned and not able to complete salvation but He acquired the attributes of God and accepted worship from many people.

- His omnipresence (Matthew 28:20; Luke 23:43; John 3:13; 14:23; Revelation 3: 20).
- He is from Heaven and has authority over it (John 16: 28; 6: 62, Matthew 16:19; 18:18; 28:18)
- Has the Glory of God (Matthew 16:27, Luke 9:26; Revelation 3:21)
- Accepted prayers (Matthew 7:22)
- Accepted adoration (John 20:22 & 29; Matthew 12:8)
- Accepted worshipping (John 9:38; Mark 5:22; Matthew 28:17)

The miracles of Christ were of many different types. Among them were miracles of creation, raising the dead and many others that clearly denotes His authority as God “The Author of all Creation”

## **Conclusion**

We believe that our Lord, our God and our Savior Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Logos is perfect in His Divinity and in His Humanity (without sin) and that’s why His redemption was unlimited and sufficient for the forgiveness of the unlimited sins of all mankind through all ages.

### **Activities/Discussion Points**

1. Why it is so important to believe in One Nature of God after the union?

The belief in the One Nature of the Incarnate Logos is essential, necessary and fundamental for redemption. Redemption requires unlimited propitiation sufficient for the forgiveness of the unlimited sins of all the people through all ages. There was no solution than the incarnation of God the Logos to offer this through His divine power.

2. Discuss the biblical proofs of the One Nature of God

- “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58)
- “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is the Son of Man who is in heaven” (John 3:13)
- “You denied the Holy One...and killed the Prince of life” (Acts 3:14-15)
- “Had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Corinthians 2:8)
- “To shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28)
- “I am He who lives, and was dead and behold, I am alive forevermore” (Revelation 1:17-18)