

Clarifications on the Hypostatic Union and Kenosis

1A Our Lord Jesus Christ was certainly human:

1B He chose to become human:

1C Psalm 40:6–9, "6 Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. 7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. 8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart." 9 I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord, You Yourself know.

2C Hebrews 10:5 clarifies the Psalm, "5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.

3C Philippians 2:5–7, "5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

2B He was born:

1C As predicted, Psalm 2:7, "7 "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

2C As fulfilled, Matthew 2:1, "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem"

3B He died a physical death - John 19:31-34, "Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water."

4B He had emotions - John 11:35, "Jesus wept."

5B He had real bodily functions and needs:

1C Perspiration, Luke 22:44, "And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground."

2C Physical weariness, John 4:6, "Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. "

3C Thirst, John 19:28, "Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

6B He was seen, heard, and touched by thousands.

- 1C** 1 John 1:1, "1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—
- 2C** Matthew 8:3, "3 Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. "
- 3C** Matthew 17:6–8, "6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. 7 But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." 8 When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. "
- 7B** He grew spiritually as any human being does:
- 1C** Luke 2:40, "40 And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.
- 2C** Hebrews 5:7–9, "7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,
- 8B** As such, His humanity is a central doctrine, 1 John 4:2–3, "2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. "
- 2A** His body and sin:
- 1B** Deity cannot mingle with sin:
- 1C** 1 John 1:5, "5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- 2C** 1 Peter 1:16, "16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."
- 2B** Therefore, a marvel:
- 1C** Though Deity could not become sin, He became sin, 2 Corinthians 5:21, "21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- 2C** Though Deity could not be cursed by God, He became accursed, Galatians 3:13, "13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),
- 3C** Though Deity could never become forsaken of God, He was forsaken, Matthew 27:46, "46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
- 3B** Christ's body was given for us:

- 1C He gave His body, Luke 22:19–20, "19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.
- 2C His flesh, John 6:51, "51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."
- 3C Hebrews 10:10, "10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
- 4C 1 Peter 2:24, "24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed.
- 4B Conclusion: The body of Christ was fully human. In His humanity He never sinned, nor was there any taint of sin of any kind in Him. It was a perfect *human* body.
- 3A How do we know that Christ was God? First, because God the Father told us and showed us through many miracles, signs, and wonders; second, because Christ showed us through the relational attributes.
- 1B The passive voice in several passages tells us that the demonstration of Christ's deity was done by the Father (note it does not say that Christ demonstrated Himself to be God):
- 1C 1 Timothy 3:16, "16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God **was manifested** in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.
- 2C 1 John 1:1–2, "1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— 2 the life **was manifested**, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—
- 3C 1 Peter 1:19–21, "19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but **was manifest** in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
- 2B Passages that state God's testimony of Christ as God:
- 1C Direct testimony:
- 1D Matthew 3:17, "17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- 2D Matthew 17:5, "5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"
- 3D 2 Peter 1:17–18, "17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.
- 2C Nuts and bolts of God's declaration of Jesus as deity:
- 1D God did the miracles, wonders, and signs through Jesus, Acts 2:22, "22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—
- 2D Peter knew Jesus as God through the revelation of the Father, Matthew 16:15–17, "15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.
- 3D Declared by the Holy Spirit to be God through resurrection (Jesus did not raise Himself!)
- 1E John 20:26–28, "26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"
- 2E Romans 1:3–4, "3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.
- 4D Anointed with the Holy Spirit to do His great works, Acts 10:36–38, "36 The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ— He is Lord of all— 37 that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.
- 5D The crowd observes that God gave this power to Jesus, Matthew 9:1–8, "1 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. 2 Then behold, they

brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." 3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" 4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" — then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." 7 And he arose and departed to his house. 8 Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

6D He cast out demons by the Spirit of God, Matthew 12:28, "28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

7D He cast out demons by the finger of God, meaning by His power, Luke 11:20, "20 But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

8D Nothing from His own initiative, John 5:17–20, "17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." 18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. 19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

9D The raising of Lazarus came through prayer, John 11:40–44, "40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" 41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." 43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

10D Jesus' direct statement: John 14:10, "10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

3B Jesus' personal manifestation of the glory of the Father is in the relational attributes, which are certainly a manifestation of deity:

- 1C Mark 15:39, "39 So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"
- 2C John 1:4, "4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- 3C John 1:14, "14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
- 4C John 8:12, "12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
- 5C John 13:1, "1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.
- 6C John 14:9, "9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? "
- 7C John 16:10, "10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;
- 8C John 17:6, "6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.
- 4A As such, the character of Christ is our legitimate example:
- 1B Colossians 1:27, "27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- 2B Colossians 2:6-7, 6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.
- 3B Galatians 4:19, 19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,
- 4B 2 Thessalonians 3:5, 5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.
- 5B Hebrews 12:1-2, 1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- 6B Romans 15:2-3, 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."
- 7B Romans 15:7, 7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

- 8B** 1 John 2:28, 28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.
- 9B** Philippians 2:4-8, 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
- 10B** 1 Corinthians 11:1, 1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.
- 11B** Hebrews 2:17–18, "17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.
- 12B** 1 Peter 2:21-23, 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;
- 13B** Hebrews 4:11–16, "11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. 14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.