

Foundations of Faith (A Catechism for Today)

Lesson 14 – April 2

Faith in Jesus Christ

Question 37: What is the significance of affirming that Jesus is truly human?

Jesus was human in every respect in order that from within our humanity our sin may be redeemed. Tried and tested as we are, yet without sin, Jesus is able to help all those who are being tested.

Heb 2:14-18 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil...For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Phil 2:5-8 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness and being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Lk 4:2 2 where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.

Mk 11:12 Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not!

Jn 19:28 Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, “I am thirsty.”

Heb 4:15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

Question 38: How can Jesus be both truly God and truly human?

Jesus’ divine-human unity is a mystery. He was fully divine and fully human. His humanity and divinity were neither mixed nor divided but joined in one person. How this can be, eludes our comprehension. Yet only someone who is truly God and truly human can be our mediator bridging the distance between God and ourselves.

1 Tim 2:5-6 For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human who gave himself a ransom for all.

1 Tim 3:16 Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

2 Cor 5:17-19 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself

through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

Jn 17:20-24 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. 22 "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. 24 Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

Question 39: How did Jesus bridge that distance?

By assuming, fulfilling, and transforming the ancient offices of prophet, priest and king, Jesus reconciled us to God. As prophet, he speaks most clearly the word of God; as priest, he offered himself for us; as king, he rules over us.

Rom 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled will we be saved by his life.

Col 1:21-22 And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him.

Col 1:20 and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

2 Cor 5:18-19 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.