

HYPOSTATIC UNION

1. Definition: In the person of the Lord Jesus Christ are two persons, inseparably united, without mixture or loss of separate identity, without loss of property or attributes, the union being personal and eternal.
 - A. Perfect sinless humanity united with Undiminished Deity in One Person forever.
 - B. HUPOSTASIS means to stand under; Christ's Deity stood under the authority of the Father to accomplish His will. He set aside the independent use of His Deity attributes (Kenosis) to fulfill the plan of God. He had two independent and distinct natures (God-Man) united in One Person.
 - C. Christ is the revelation of God to men, and the manifestation of perfect humanity.

2. Passages that deal with the Hypostatic Union of Christ are: John 1:1-14; Romans 1:2-5; 9:5; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:14.
 - A. Christ became human so God could show us what He is like. When we have understood Christ, then we have understood God.
 - B. Jesus and the Father are One in essence, John 10:30; 14:9, 11.
 - C. Lord—means Deity of God in Spirit form.
Jesus—humanity of Christ, the form He took on through the virgin birth.
Christ—Messiah, Savior, His mission, to save.

3. The incarnation of Christ included His Deity. He was not a manifestation of God, He was God incarnate. He still is God incarnate. He is God in human form, John 1:1-14.
 - A. Cults, like the Bahai faith, claim that Christ was a manifestation of God, like Mohammed, or Buddha, or Krishna, etc.
 - B. Jesus is called the "WORD" who existed in eternity past, and He became flesh and dwelt among men; John and others actually saw Him.

4. The incarnate person of Christ is also True Humanity.
 - A. He had a body, soul, and human spirit.

5. The two natures of Christ, Deity and humanity, are united without transfer of attributes. This is called the Theanthropic Person.
 - A. THEOS—God, ANTHROPOS—man... God-man.
 - B. The essence of Deity is not changed due to Immutability.
 - C. The essence of humanity is cannot be changed or it would destroy the human side of His nature; then He could not have died for mankind.
 - D. Christ had to be GOD, for only God the Father would accept the Righteousness equal to His own Righteousness.
 - E. Christ had to be human to live the perfect life on earth, using His freewill to refuse what Satan offered Him. He also had to be human to die; Deity does not die on the cross with Christ rather only His humanity can die.
 - F. The Father was propitiated (satisfied) with Christ's work on the cross because Christ was perfect righteousness in His Deity, perfect sinlessness in His humanity.
 - G. The issue for Christ's humanity every day:
 - Isaiah 50:4-5, to grow spiritually
 - Luke 2:52, to grow in His body and soul
 - Matthew 26:36, to go through with the cross, to make a mental decision to fulfill the Father's will and not sin against it.
 - H. Christ pleased the Father with His attitude of submission to authority. The Father had to be satisfied with Christ in His humanity before the Father would accept us.
 - 1) We are accepted only when we are in union with Christ through faith in Him as our personal Savior.

6. Christ did use some of His attributes of Deity from time to time, with the Father's permission.

- A. He used His creative powers to multiply loaves and fish for the crowds.
- B. He used His power to heal people, to walk on water, to still the waves, but He had permission to do so from the Father.
- C. KENOSIS means that He voluntarily limited Himself in the independent use of His attributes. He never acted against the Father's will at any time. Before every miracle it had to be okayed from the Father.
 - 1) He was volitionally tempted by Satan to sin in Matthew 4, but He didn't.
 - 2) Satan would never tempt any of us in the same way because we couldn't turn stones into bread anyway.
 - 3) The point is that you have to have the ability to do something before it is a temptation. You cannot be tempted by what is not in your power or ability to achieve.
 - 4) Christ, as the unique Person of the universe, was tempted above any and every human, for He could do anything that was required of Him, through disobedience to the Father and use of His creative powers.
 - 5) Christ could not only have turned the stones into bread, He could have turned the entire desert, the entire continent into bread! That would contradict His common sense so He wouldn't, but you get the point.
 - 6) Satan offered Him unique temptations, not just the ones we have every day.
- 7. Therefore, the Hypostatic union of Christ must be considered a personal union of Deity and humanity. He is eternal God and man forever at the right hand of God the Father.
- 8. There is a false interpretation of the Hypostatic union today.
 - A. Liberals say: Deity possessed humanity, or indwelt the humanity of Christ. They call it "harmony" or "sympathy" and it is wrong.

- B. Bible says: The Hypostatic union was personal, and that the two natures, divine and human, combined in ONE hypostasis forever.
 - C. Bible teaches: That the Lord Jesus Christ is undiminished Deity and perfect sinless humanity combined in ONE person forever.
9. The Lord Jesus Christ in His Hypostatic union could be weak from his human side (“I thirst), and all powerful from His Deity side at the same time.
- A. He could be ignorant in His humanity, Luke 2:52, yet Omniscient in His Deity.
 - B. He could die in His humanity, yet be Eternal Life in His Deity.
10. Why did Eternal God, who is co-equal with the Father and co-equal with the Holy Spirit (Philippians 2:6; Colossians 1:9) have to become a member of the human race?
- A. To become our Savior, Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 2:14-15.
 - B. To become mediator between man and God, 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:6; 9:15, 12:24.
 - C. To become a priest, Hebrews 7:4-5, 14, 28; 10:5-15.
 - D. There had to be David’s greater son to rule forever, 2 Samuel 7:8; Psalm 89:20-37.
11. Everything Christ communicated during the incarnation came from one of three sources:
- A. Deity—John 8:58, “Before Abraham was, I existed eternally.”
 - B. Humanity—John 19:28, “I thirst.”
 - C. Hypostatic union—John 14:6; Matthew 11:28, “Come unto Me.”

