

Doctrine of the Hypostatic Union (HU)

Colossians 1:15

15 **He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.**

We saw in our last lesson how verses 15-19 are five of the most important descriptive verses of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. Last week studied how JESUS CHRIST is Deity. What we must do now is combine both the humanity of JESUS CHRIST and the Deity of JESUS CHRIST.

We are now going to study the teaching of the Hypostatic Union. Few people have ever heard of this teaching of JESUS CHRIST. Not one of the six Bible dictionaries in my office even discussed the Hypostatic Union. You will not be helped by Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, tenth edition But you will find it on page 1116 of the 2662 page of Webster's Third New International Dictionary.

So the question arises, **why** should we study this teaching?

The answer is found in 2 Peter 3:2

2 **that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles.**

And in 2 Peter 3:17–18

17 **You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,**

18 **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.**

In this time of turmoil you desire peace to be increased inside of your soul?

2 Peter 1:2

2 **Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;**

So if you desire inner peace in your soul, grow in the knowledge of JESUS CHRIST and in the knowledge of God the Father.

(Colossians 1:10)

HYPOSTATIC UNION DOCTRINE

1. Definition: Let's start with a simple definition from Google: **Hypostatic union** (from the Greek: ὑπόστασις **hypóstasis**, "sediment, foundation, substance, subsistence" is a technical term in Christian theology employed in mainstream Christology to describe the **union of Christ's** humanity and divinity in one **hypostasis**, or individual existence.

Or from Webster's Third International Dictionary, under **hypostatic**: of or relating to substance; and

under **hypostatic union**: the union of the divine and human natures of Christ in one **hypostasis.**”

So what have we learned so far about Jesus Christ?

In the person of JESUS CHRIST are **TWO NATURES, inseparable, united without mixture or loss of separate identity**; without loss or transfer of properties or attributes, the union being PERSONAL and ETERNAL.

2. Scriptures which testify of the Hypostatic Union of JESUS CHRIST:

John 1:1-14

THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

- 1 **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**
- 2 **He was in the beginning with God.**
- 3 **All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.**
- 4 **In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men**
- 5 **The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**

JOHN THE WITNESS

6 **There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.**

7 **He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.**

8 **He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light.**

9 **There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.**

10 **He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.**

11 **He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.**

12 **But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,**

13 **who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

THE WORD MADE FLESH

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

Romans 1:2-5

2 **which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,**

3 **concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,**

4 **who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,**

5 **through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,**

Romans 9:5

5 **whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.**

Philippians 2:5-11

5 **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,**

6 **who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,**

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

8 **Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

9 **For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,**

10 **so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

11 **and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

I Timothy 3:16

16 **By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.**

Hebrews 2:14

14 **Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,**

3. **The incarnate person of includes His deity.**

JESUS CHRIST is God, He is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit and the incarnation does not diminish His Deity, therefore He is **undiminished Deity**.

4. The incarnate person of Christ **includes** true humanity. JESUS CHRIST is bonafide humanity with a body, soul, and human spirit, but minus the **ISN (Inherited Sin Nature)**. Thru the virgin birth JESUS CHRIST avoided both the imputation of Adam's sin and spiritual death and therefore minus the **ISN (Inherited Sin Nature)**. JESUS CHRIST was not born spiritually dead, He does not have an **Inherited Sin Nature** and He does not have the imputation of Adam's sin.

5. The two natures of Christ (Divine and human) are united without transfer of attributes of these two natures. The attributes adhere to their corresponding nature. In other words, the essence of deity cannot be changed.

Here is the application of Immutability.

The infinite cannot be transferred to the finite. To rob God of a single attribute of His essence would , of course, destroy His entire deity. To rob humanity of any essence of humanity would, of course, destroy his humanity.

So, all of the Essence of Deity is only Deity in the person of JESUS CHRIST, all of the characteristics of humanity are only characteristics of humanity in the person of Christ. JESUS

CHRIST is the God-man and there is no transfer of attributes of deity to humanity or of the attributes of humanity to deity. So, point 5, the two natures of Christ are united without transfer and without diminishing of these attributes.

6. No attribute of the essence of Deity was changed by the incarnation. In fulfilling the purpose of the first advent, certain attributes of deity were used, but this does not imply that they were surrendered, destroyed, or in any way neutralized. That's the false interpretation of the teaching of Kenosis. Deity of Christ is always the Deity of Christ. Biblical understanding of what happened to the Deity of Christ at certain times during the incarnation is the true doctrine of kenosis.

Christ **voluntarily restricted** the independent use of certain divine attributes in keeping with the plan of the Father. For the first advent during the incarnation JESUS CHRIST gave up the independent exercise of His divine attributes in living among men and their limitation, but His Deity was in no way destroyed or blighted. This is one of the reasons why JESUS CHRIST was Indwelt with the Holy Spirit and filled with the Holy Spirit or empowered by the Holy Spirit throughout His humanity. This is why we can now love as JESUS CHRIST loved, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Had JESUS CHRIST loved from His own Deity, then, of course, there is no way we could love as JESUS CHRIST loved for we are not Deity.

Had JESUS CHRIST loved from His perfect humanity then, again we could not love as He loved for we are not perfect. But since JESUS CHRIST loved by the power of the Holy Spirit, and since we have the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (given graciously to us at point of Faith in JESUS CHRIST) we can love as JESUS CHRIST loved by the power of the the Holy Spirit. Spiritual Love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22)

7. Therefore the union of Divine essence, the person of Christ must be considered:

1) **Hypostatic.**

Hypostatic is derived from a Greek New Testament word, **hupostasis**, this means to stand under, to take upon ones self something else without loosing what you had and therefore, JESUS CHRIST, without loosing His Deity took upon Himself true humanity.

This word is actually used in the Greek of Hebrews 1:3.

3 **And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature,**
(Here is our word. King James: IMAGE OF HIS PERSON)
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 Greek word for nature is **hupostasis**:
to place or set under.)

In general that which underlies the apparent; hence **reality, essence, substance**. What really exist under any appearance, **reality, essential nature**.

(Most people looked at Jesus at His time and today and see only the surface, they do not see the reality of all that He is; that **He is both God and man in one person.**)

So lets insert this in Hebrews 1:3 and **He (JESUS CHRIST) is the radiance of His (God the Father) Glory and the exact representation of His (God the Father) nature, or being or substance, or existence.**

So what is so important about this word?

We now **know God's true nature, His essence, His being, in knowing Jesus Christ** This is why Peter beckons us to grow in the knowledge of JESUS CHRIST, for by growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST we also grow in the Knowledge of God Himself. **People there is nothing more important in your understanding and knowledge than of the person of JESUS CHRIST from the Bible. This is the power of Colossians 1:15-19.**

So, **hypostatic** refers to the whole person of Christ as distinguished from his 2 natures, **DIVINE and HUMAN.**

2) Personal.

This is also said to be personal because personal refers to the **emergence of the unique person of the universe.**

JESUS CHRIST is God.

**As God,
JESUS CHRIST is co-eternal
with the Father and the Holy Spirit
who are God.**

But JESUS CHRIST is different from God in that He is man.

But He is different from man in that HE IS GOD.

He is absolutely unique.

His uniqueness led to the cross.

His uniqueness means He is the only savior.

His uniqueness destroys salvation by any other way.

There's only one way of salvation.

Neither is there salvation in any other, there in none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.

So, as God,
JESUS CHRIST is co-equal and co-eternal with the **Father** and
Holy Spirit
and

as man

JESUS CHRIST is superior to all man-kind,
but true humanity.

8. We have a false interpretation of the **Hypostatic Union**. The **Hypostatic Union** does NOT imply that Deity possessed humanity or that the Deity of Christ indwells the humanity of Christ . This is false.

This is not taught in the Scripture.

Furthermore, the union was more than harmony or sympathy. That's the LIBERAL VIEW.

It is personal.

Two natures, **divine** and **human**,
have been combined into one hypostasis,
one essence, one person forever.

This is one reason why this is so difficult for the unbeliever to understand the **Hypostatic Union**. They are spiritual and the flesh cannot understand the spiritual.

1 Corinthians 2:12-14

12 **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit (Holy Spirit) who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,**

13 **which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.**

14 **But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.**

So it requires the ministry of the Filling of the Holy Spirit, that is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit for each of us to grasp **The Hypostatic Union** and it's importance to our daily lives.

9. Therefore, JESUS CHRIST, the God-man has one **hypostasis; one essence forever** and the attributes of both the **divine** and **human** nature belong to THE ONE PERSON OF CHRIST.

The characteristics of one nature are NEVER attributed to the other. This means that during the first advent, JESUS CHRIST could be at the same time omnipotent and weak, omniscient and ignorant.

However, the ignorance of his humanity was quickly overcome by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 2:40, 52; compared with Luke 4:1; John 1:14.

In other words, JESUS CHRIST in His Deity was always omnipotent even though in his humanity on earth he was weak and was hungry he was still omnipotent .

That, of course, has changed since the resurrection of Christ, but these conditions did exist during the incarnation.

10. The necessity for JESUS CHRIST becoming a member of the human race.

1) **To be our Savior.**

Lewis Sperry Chafer says it so well, when he points out that **God told Satan that He and He alone would save mankind—make them righteous.**

If JESUS CHRIST is not God then God needed man to help Him provide Salvation.

But since JESUS CHRIST is the God-Man, God provided every aspect of Salvation without the help of man.

This is another reason why **SALVATION IS BY FAITH AND FAITH ALONE...** Faith depends totally on the object of that Faith.

Faith is not man doing anything.

So JESUS CHRIST by being God, meant that God did not, does not need the help of man for our salvation.

2) **To be our Savior.**

- JESUS CHRIST as God cannot go to the cross.
- Sovereignty cannot be subject to the death of the cross.

- Eternal Life cannot die.
- Omnipresence cannot reduce itself to one point .
- These characteristics cannot be changed so, as God JESUS CHRIST could not go to the cross.

He had to be man.

It's man who goes to the cross.

Remember that whoever goes to the cross must be obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Sovereignty cannot be obedient,

Eternal Life cannot change and die on the cross for the sins of the world, etc.

Phillipians 2:7-8

7 **but emptied Himself, (that is He did not rely on His Deity) taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.**

8 **Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. He set aside His deity in order to die for all mankind.**

Hebrews 2:14-15 says that Christ had to become a member of the human race to go to the cross and die for our sins.

Hebrews 2:14-15

14 **Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood,** (human race) **He Himself** (JESUS CHRIST) **likewise** (to be like members of the human race) **also partook of the same,** (human nature) **that through death** (as Deity, He could not die) **He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,**

15 **and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.** (This refers to all members of human race who would but believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior)

3) **Mediatorship:** Under the concept of mediatorship in the Bible, a mediator is someone who pulls two parties together.

Party Of The First Part, God, Deity;

Party Of The Second Part, human race, and

a **mediator** must be equal with both parties.

A **mediator** must be **God** and he must be **man**.

JESUS CHRIST was always God, but He didn't qualify as a mediator until He became true humanity,
Job 9:32-33; I Timothy 2:5-6.

4) JESUS CHRIST had to become true humanity to be our **PRIEST.**

A **priest** is a man who represents man before God.
Hebrews 7:4, 5, 14, 28; Hebrews 10:5, 10-14.

JESUS CHRIST became the High Priest by becoming true humanity.

5) In II Samuel 7:8-16, in Psalm 89:20-37, we have the fact that **God promised David He would have a son who would reign forever.** The **Davidic Covenant** cannot be fulfilled apart from the incarnation of Christ.

JESUS CHRIST had to be born the son of David and He is directly descended from David thru the 2 sons of David by Bathsheba, Solomon and Nathan. Solomon is the line that goes down thru Joseph, which is the **legal line.**

Nathan is the line that goes down to Mary which is the **real line** and JESUS CHRIST from his real mother and from the **legal side** was descended from David.

Therefore, JESUS CHRIST was a Jew. He was from the tribe of Judah, from the family of David and by coming this way in his humanity and thru resurrection and the 2nd Advent, He will fulfill the Davidic covenant

forever.

11. Everything verbally communicated by Christ during the incarnation came from one of 3 sources:

- 1) from his Deity as in John 8:58
- 2) from his humanity as in John 19:28
- 3) from his hypostatic union as in Matthew 11:28

For example:

Jesus said before Abraham existed on this earth, I AM, meaning that **He is Eternal**. That's John 8:58. This he spoke from His Deity. It was His Deity that pre-existed Abraham.

From His humanity in John 19:28 He said, "**I thirst.**" Deity can't thirst, only humanity.

But from His **Hypostatic Union**

He said **come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.**

That 's his **Hypostatic Union**, the God-man, the only Savior.

12. Therefore we have categories of attributes as related to the person of JESUS CHRIST.

- 1) Attributes which are true of His whole person.

Example:

JESUS CHRIST is Redeemer or Savior.

We saw Him as redeemer in Colossians 1:14.

So, as Redeemer this is true of the God-man.

This is an attribute which is true of the entire person.

Both natures are essential in the function of redemption.

- 2) Attributes which are true of His Deity but the whole person of Christ is the subject. John 8:58.

When Christ spoke in John 8:58, He spoke as the **God-man** and this is the subject, the whole person, the **God-man**, but He said I existed eternally.

That's present indicative active and only His Deity existed eternally.

So the attribute is very simple.

The attribute is true only of His Deity, but the whole person is the subject.

The whole person is the subject, but the attribute of **Deity, Eternity**, applies only to **His Divine Nature**.

- 3) Attributes true only of his humanity but the whole person is the subject. This is John 19:28, **I thirst**. The whole person is the subject. JESUS CHRIST is speaking as the **God-man** but only the humanity of Christ can thirst. However, this classification

disappears after the resurrection, ascension, and and session. You don't thirst in a resurrection body either.

- 4) The person is described according to His Divine Nature but this affirms His human nature. Revelation 1:12-18;

Here the Deity of Christ is in evidence, yet Christ is described as the one dead, yet He lives in verse 18.

Death is only possible for the humanity of Christ, so the person is described according to his Divine Nature, He is described according to attributes of Deity, but this affirms His human nature.

You have to make up your mind:

Is Christ sufficient for all your needs?

Or do you have to have other things or something else?

**This book is about the Sufficiency of JESUS CHRIST:
to God the Father;
and to you?**

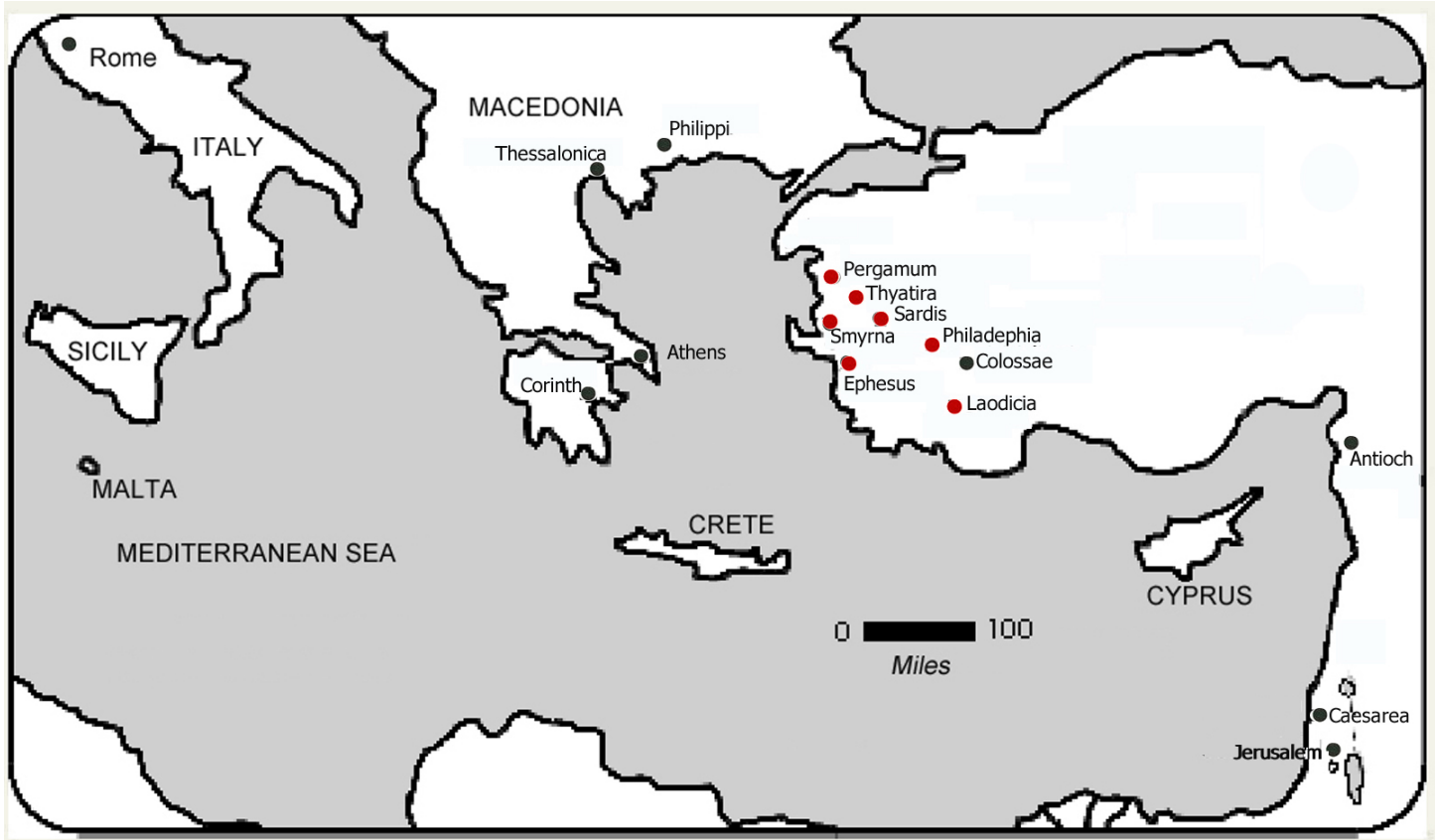
Is the Word of God sufficient for you?

Sufficient to bring you to JESUS CHRIST?

Sufficient to bring you to God the Father?

Is the Word of God sufficient for **SAD** (*Stress, Anxiety, Depression*) in your life or do you need outside help?

So we learn so much from the true understanding of the Gospel.



*Only one life,' twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.*