

Jesus Took on Humanity in Its Every Aspect so He Could Heal Every Aspect of Our Broken Humanity — Luke 2:40, 52

If you are in your childhood, trying to grow up.

If you are in your teenage years, trying to get started in achieving your dreams.

Do you feel damaged in some way?

If you have faced rejection by your peers, and made to feel like you are a misfit.

If you have made some poor life choices.

If you have serious health concerns.

If you are working to overcome mental health issues.

If your emotions seem to take over your life.

If you are watching your physical vitality fade toward the end of life.

If you struggle with a bitter spirit, and in forgiving.

If you are a weak and wounded sinner.

Then, this sermon is for you!

Let's back up and take a look at the big picture from the beginning.

There was this massive train wreck in the Garden of Eden.

- Sin entered the world and every person was ruined in the totality of his being.
- We were damaged physically, in our thinking, emotionally, relationally, and in our human spirits.
- Most of all, we experienced a mortal wound in our relationship with God.
- Humanity was helpless to fix the situation.
- Man needed to be rescued, but a man is required to do the rescuing.
- A man got us into this mess; a man would have to get us out.
- Where will there be found a man qualified to do a rescue like this?
There is no such man on earth.
- God the eternal Son became incarnate, and took on genuine humanity.
- *Jesus took on humanity in its every aspect so he could heal every aspect of our broken humanity.*

Ways in which people have tried to explain Jesus:

- He only *seemed* to be a man.
- He had a physical body, alright, but he was human on the outside and God on the inside.

- Jesus was an especially good man; so, God adopted him and made him to be God.
- He wasn't fully, truly God. He is a created being, higher than us, but not God in the same way the Father is God.
- Jesus was neither fully divine nor fully human. He was a blend – sort of like a spiritual smoothie. That he was blended into some new third kind of thing.

However, the truth is that when Jesus Christ was born into this world, he was already truly and fully God, but he became also truly human.

① Jesus was just as much man as if he were never God and just as much God as if he were never man.

D. A. Carson: ②

“He became what he was not; he became a human being. It’s not that he indwelt a human being or put on some kind of humanness, as if humanness was something he was dressed in, or faked his humanity, or appeared as a human. He actually became a human.”

One may object: “But to be human is to be sinful.” After all, don't we say things when we sin like, “Well, I'm only human.”

③ Sin isn't what makes us human; it's what ruins our humanity!

Millard J. Erickson:

“For the humanity of Jesus was not the humanity of sinful beings, but the humanity possessed by Adam and Eve from their creation and before their fall. There is no doubt then as to Jesus' humanity. The question is not whether Jesus was fully human, but whether we are...”

Luke 2

40 And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

We are being told that Jesus grew up in the normal way.

That Jesus was perfect in each stage of life.

He had a physical body. He grew physically.

Jesus had a human spirit. So, he grew spiritually.

He experienced temptation (though without ever sinning, of course).

Jesus had a rational mind. So, Jesus grew in wisdom.

Jesus grew socially and relationally.

Jesus experienced the full range of human emotion.

④ *Jesus took on humanity in its every aspect so he could heal every aspect of our broken humanity.*

⑤ **Jesus Had a Truly Physical Body:**

Verse 52 says Jesus “grew in stature”

God had promised King David to set a descendent of his on the throne and that this son would reign forever (2 Samuel 7:12-13). He would have to become a man.

As God is immortal and cannot die (Psalm 102:27), he would have to become a man.

- Jesus had a genuine physical body of real flesh and blood. (1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 10:5; John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16)
- It was a visible, tangible body. (1 John 1:1)
- He was born of a woman (Galatians 4:4)
- He had to grow up (Luke 2:40, 52).
- He had ancestors. Examples are Abraham (Galatians 3:16) and King David. Luke 1:32:
“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.”
- Jesus became hungry. (Matthew 4:2; 21:18)
- He became thirsty (John 19:28)
- He became tired and sleepy (Matthew 4:38).

[Max Lucado, God Came Near, reading from Chapter 2, “Just a Moment”]

⑥ Jesus Experienced the Full Range of Human Emotions:

- He is not the unmoved mover or an impersonal force, like in Star Wars.
- When he saw great faith, he was amazed. (Luke 7:9)
- When he confronted stubborn unbelief among his own people, “He marveled because of their unbelief.” (Mark 6:6)
- When the religious leaders were more concerned about their rules for Sabbath observance, he experienced, “anger and was grieved at the hardness of their hearts.” (Mark 3:5)
- When his friend Lazarus died, he was deeply moved and troubled. And John 11:35 says, “Jesus wept.”

⑦ Jesus, was Not Impersonal, but Personal and Relational:

- He said, “I am the good shepherd; and I know my sheep” and He told us, “He calls his own sheep by name.” (John 10:2-3, 14)
- He told his disciples, “No longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends.” (John 15:15)
- However “He came to his own, and His own [people group] did not receive Him.” (John 1:11)
- When he faced his own death in the Garden of Gethsemane, he wanted his disciples to be present with him and to pray. (Matthew 26:38)

⑧ Jesus had a Human Spirit:

Every person has a human spirit. We are not animals or machines. Jesus had a human spirit.

- Jesus perceived what people were thinking in his spirit (Mark 2:8).
- When frustrated with sign-seekers, he “sighed deeply in his spirit.” (Mark 8:12)
- In the presence of death, “He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.” (John 11:33)
- As he warned his disciples that one of them would betray him, “he was troubled in his spirit.” (John 13:21)

⑨ Jesus Maintained a Vital Connection with the Father

Vs. 40 “The grace of God was upon him”

Vs. 52 “Grew in favor with God”

- Jesus lived in constant dependence upon the Father.
- And in complete obedience to the Father.
- And in continuous fellowship with the Father.

This is the way Adam and Eve were supposed to have lived.

Jesus took on humanity in its every aspect so he could heal every aspect of our broken humanity.

⑩ At the Cross, Jesus Suffered in Every Part of His Humanity

- **Jesus suffered *Emotionally*.** As his death approached, he prayed, “Now my soul is troubled.” (John 12:27) He was in anguish and faced the moment with “prayers and appeals with loud cries and tears.” (Hebrews 5:7)
- ***Physically*,** He Suffered pain and the Bible says He tasted death (Hebrews 2:9, 14)
- **Jesus’ sufferings were *Relational*.** He told his disciples that he would “be rejected by this generation.” (Luke 17:25). Indeed, they sneered at him and mocked him. They insulted and spat on him. (Luke 23:35-37)
- **Jesus’s sufferings involved *his Connection to the Father*.** Dying on the cross, bearing our sins, he felt the break in fellowship with the Father. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34)
- His final words on the cross were, “Father, into your hands I commit ***my spirit.***” (Luke 23:46)

It had to be this way. Why So?

Kevin DeYoung: ⑪

“Whatever the Son did not take to himself he could not heal. If he did not take himself fully a human nature, with a human body, a human mind, a human soul – whatever he did not take to himself cannot be healed... Christ could only save what Christ was.”

He was explaining what one of the church fathers said around 1700 years ago:

Gregory of Nazianzus: “What is not assumed cannot be healed.”

Jesus suffered in every way, in every part of his humanity, so he could heal every aspect of your broken humanity.

The Old Testament puts it this way:

Isaiah 53:5 “By his stripes we are healed”

Hebrews 2:13-15 (NIV) “‘Here am I, and the children God has given me.’ Since the children have flesh and blood, *he too shared in their humanity* so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery...”

So...

If you are in your childhood, trying to grow up.

If you are in your teenage years, trying to get started in achieving your dreams.

If you feel damaged in some way...

If you have faced rejection by your peers, and made to feel like a misfit.

If you have made some poor life choices.

If you have serious health concerns.

If you are working to overcome some mental health issue.

If your emotions seem to take over your life.

If you are watching your physical vitality fade toward the end of life.

If you struggle with a bitter spirit, and in forgiving.

If you are a weak and wounded sinner.

Then, Christ's *incarnation* was for you!

🕒 *Jesus took on humanity in its every aspect so he could heal every aspect of your broken humanity.*

Click to listen to an audio version of this here...

https://smalltownbaptist.net/audio/trinity/incarnation_as_man.mp3