

Jesus Is True Man

Q. 82. Is Jesus Christ true man?

Jesus, the Son of God, became a real man, having real flesh, a human body and soul.

Jesus is a man just as we are, with the exception of sin. Jesus felt the joys and sorrows and the pleasures and pains that we feel as human beings. As a man, Jesus had a human mind, a human will, and a physical, mortal body.

Jesus Christ is also true God, Who became man and dwelt among us. St. John says, “And the Word became flesh [i.e., the Incarnation] and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

The ancient Fathers of the Church proclaimed that what Christ took up was our entire human nature, though without our sin. He was directly conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary and was born in the normal course of events. Because of this extraordinary action of God, Mary is called the Blessed Virgin. Christ had no human father. Joseph was Mary’s husband, and acted as foster father to Jesus during His childhood.

The greatest proof of God’s goodness and love toward us is His gift of His only beloved Son. All love tends toward that which it loves. Jesus, the Son of God, loved man, therefore, He became man. Infinite love and mercy caused Him to leave the Kingdom of eternal bliss; to descend from the throne of His majesty, power and glory; to become a helpless child; to suffer and to die for us, that we might live forever in heaven. In the crib we see the love of God, as He humbles Himself, so low as to beg the love of our hearts. When He was only forty days old, Mary brought Him to the Temple to offer Him to God as the Victim for our Redemption.

Sacred Scripture

The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. *Luke 1:35*

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. *Romans 5:15*

The light shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

For commentaries on each question with Cardinal Arinze, Sr. John Vianney and Fr. Straub (in Spanish), see Appendix E.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.’”) And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known. *John 1:5-18*

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Catechism of the Catholic Church

475 Similarly, at the sixth ecumenical council, Constantinople III in 681, the Church confessed that Christ possesses two wills and two natural operations, divine and human. They are not opposed to each other, but cooperate in such a way that the Word made flesh willed humanly in obedience to his Father all that he had decided divinely with the Father and the Holy Spirit for our salvation.¹ Christ’s human will “does not resist or oppose but rather submits to his divine and almighty will.”²

Vatican Council II

For, by his incarnation, he, the son of God, has in a certain way united himself with each man. He worked with human hands, he thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will, and with a human heart he loved. Born of the Virgin Mary, he has truly been made one of us, like to us in all things except sin. *Modern World*, 22

Summary Prayer

Jesus, we believe that You are true man. You, the Son of God, became a real man, having real flesh, a human body and soul. With gratitude we recall Your humanity, the life You share with the sons of men. You felt the joys and sorrows that we feel as human beings. You took our entire human nature, though without sin, and lived among us. Infinite love and mercy caused You to come to us as a helpless child, and to suffer and die for us, that we might have eternal life.

Jesus, may we, who celebrate Your coming as man, share more fully in Your divine life. May the power of Your divinity help us answer Your call to receive forgiveness and life.

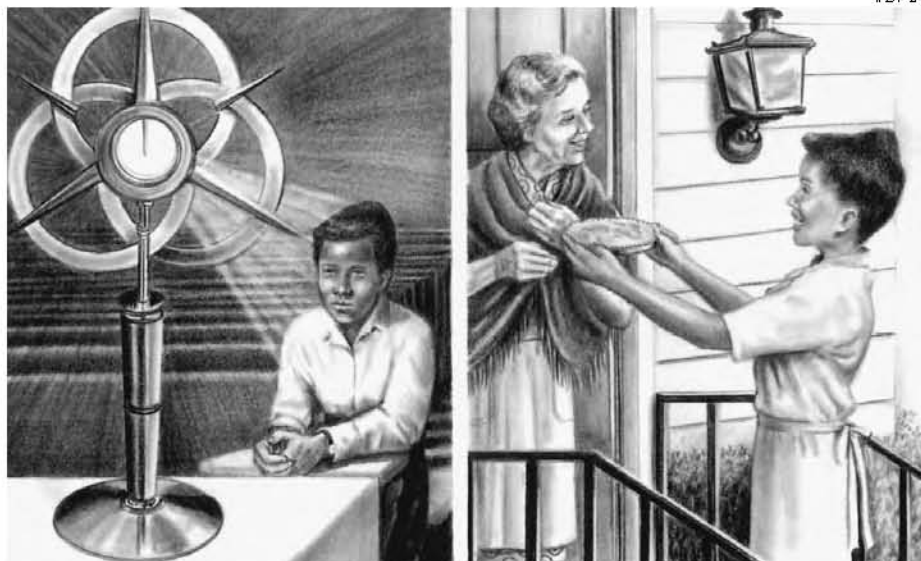
Divine Word become man, born of the Virgin Mary, Who humbled Yourself to share our human nature, may we come to share increasingly Your divinity.

Fill our hearts with Your love. Lead us through Your suffering and death to the glory of Your Resurrection. When You come again in glory, reward us with eternal life. May we meet You with confidence when You come to be our Judge. In Your coming, You gave us a new vision of Your glory. You were born of the Virgin Mary and came to share our life. May we come to share Your eternal life in the glory of Your Kingdom. Amen.

Doctrine • Moral • Worship Exercise (see Appendix B for answer key)

1. How is Jesus a true man?
2. By becoming man, Jesus proved His love for us. Think of situations in your life in which you can love Jesus in return.
3. Express in prayer your faith that Jesus enlightens and strengthens us so that we may resist every temptation that comes our way.

#B7-2



Q. 83. In what ways did Jesus show His concern for us?

Jesus showed His divine concern for us by means of His human nature. In His humanity we see God's love for man. We cannot see God, but since God sent His divine Son to live among us and to save us by His death on the Cross, we can see

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how much God really loves us. During Jesus' public ministry, He worked many miracles to help people.

Jesus loved everyone and spent His life trying to help them in their need, even those who opposed Him. He traveled all over Israel, teaching the people about His Father, His heavenly Kingdom, and the need for repentance. He also taught about the necessity of loving God with one's whole heart, soul, and mind, and of loving one's neighbor as one's self. He loved especially the poor, the sick, and the troubled. Jesus loved sinners and forgave their sins. He offered His life to save all mankind.

Sacred Scripture

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him. *Colossians 1:19-22*

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. *Matthew 9:35-36*

Catechism of the Catholic Church

607 The desire to embrace his Father's plan of redeeming love inspired Jesus' whole life,¹ for his redemptive passion was the very reason for his Incarnation. And so he asked, "And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour."² And again, "Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?"³ From the cross, just before "It is finished," he said, "I thirst."⁴

Vatican Council II

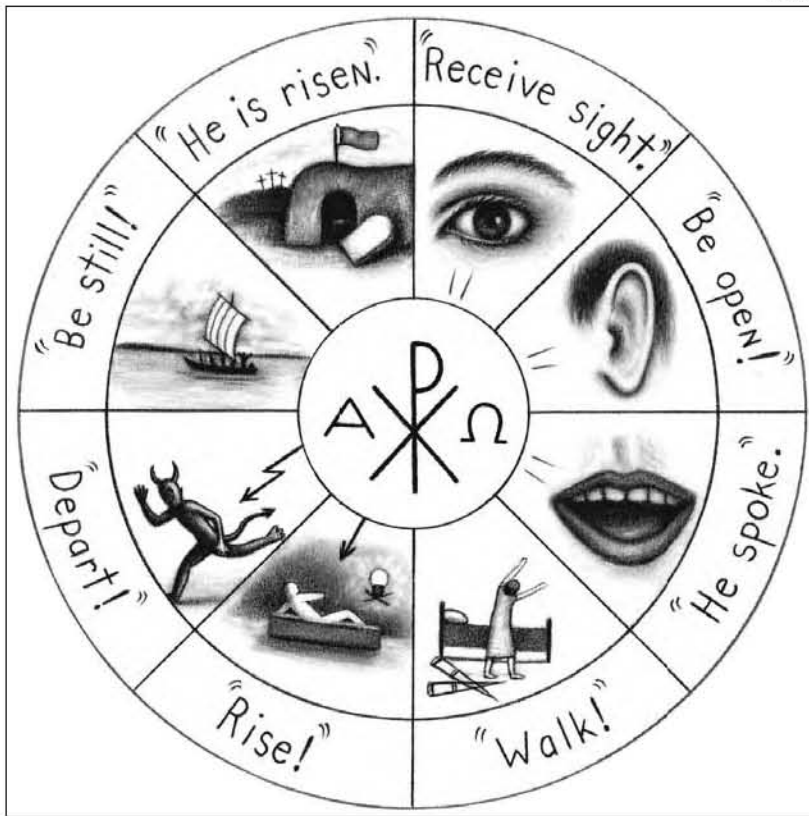
God sent his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things (cf. Heb. 1:2), that he might be teacher, king and priest of all, the head of the new and universal People of God's sons. *The Church, 13*

In assuming human nature he [Christ] has united to himself all humanity in a supernatural solidarity which makes of it one single family. He has made charity the distinguishing mark of his disciples, in the words: "By this will all men know you are my disciples, by the love you bear one another" (Jn. 13:35). *Lay People, 8*

Summary Prayer

Lord Jesus, in Your concern for people during Your public life on earth, we see both the divine and human love for man. We see this love especially in Your Passion and death. In the Gospels we read of Your tender acts of compassion for people. You loved the poor, the sick, the sinners, and children. That is why You could say "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29). Please, Jesus, help us in our needs. Amen.

Catechism by Diagram



The Miracles of Jesus. By becoming man, Jesus reached out to all. For our benefit He worked many miracles. He gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, speech to the dumb, health to the sick, life to the dead, freedom to those possessed of the devil, calmness to the sea. His greatest miracle was His own Resurrection from the dead.

Doctrine • Moral • Worship Exercise (see Appendix B for answer key)

1. As a true human being, Jesus has shown His concern for us in many ways. What are some of the ways?
2. Have you experienced Jesus' concern in your life? List the things that He has done for you.
3. Through your actions, how can you thank Jesus for His concern for you?

Chapter Summary Prayer

Savior of mankind, You loved the children of the lands You walked, and You enriched them with the witness of justice and truth. You lived and died that we might be reborn in the Spirit and be filled with love of all men. You came to earth to relieve the pain of our exile; You took our natural limita-

tions as Your own. Uphold us when our hearts grow faint. May we receive forgiveness and mercy through Your coming.

Lord Jesus, our Savior and our God, give us always the water of life to drink, the free gift of the Spirit flowing from Your Sacred Heart, for You are all good and You love mankind. We glorify You, and Your eternal Father, and Your life-giving Spirit.

Lord Jesus Christ, in virtue of Your saving passover from death to life, pour Your Holy Spirit into our hearts and fill us with awe and reverence for You, and love and compassion for our neighbor, for Yours is the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Family Wisdom Library: Chapter 21

See Appendix A for more references.

Q. 82. Is Jesus Christ true man?

Gospel of Life, John Paul II, sect. 3;

On the Dignity and Vocation of Women, John Paul II, sect. 3, 11, 25;

On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World, John Paul II, sect. 49-50;

The Relationship Between Faith and Reason, John Paul II, sect. 80.

Q. 83. In what ways did Jesus show His concern for us?

Catechesis in Our Time, John Paul II, sect. 9;

Gospel of Life, John Paul II, sect. 2;

The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People, John Paul II, sect. 53;

On the Dignity and Vocation of Women, John Paul II, sect. 12-13;

On Evangelization in the Modern World, Paul VI, sect. 6-9, 12;

On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World, John Paul II, sect. 39;

Redeemer of Man, John Paul II, sect. 8;

The Relationship Between Faith and Reason, John Paul II, sect. 80;

Splendor of Truth, John Paul II, sect. 8;

To the Youth of the World, John Paul II, sect. 7-8.



Thought Provokers

Please see Appendix C for the answers.

Q. 82: Today many people have difficulty believing Jesus is divine. On the other hand, during the first centuries of the Church's existence, there were many who had difficulty believing Jesus was a true man. Why, during this period, was His humanity questioned and denied?

Q. 83: Our deliberate sins, especially our mortal sins, indicate our rejection of God's will. Yet, in spite of Jesus' full knowledge of this rejection, He assumed human nature so that we could enjoy true happiness both in this life and in the next. Why, in spite of our repeated rejections of His will, do you think He voluntarily suffered for us by accepting cruel scourging and an agonizing crucifixion?
