

## ***Essential Data Concerning the Person of Christ***

**Statement of Doctrine:** *The Lord Jesus Christ being the eternal Son of God became man and so was and continues to be God and Man in two distinct natures and one person forever.*

### **Definition of Terms:**

1. *Nature:* The sum-total of all the essential qualities of a thing. It is that which makes something what it is.
2. *Person:* The complete substance endowed with reason, self-consciousness, and self-determination. It refers essentially to the individual.
3. *Hypostasis:* A Greek word meaning essence or substance. Theologically, it is used to designate the union of the perfect human nature with the eternal divine nature in the Second Person of the Trinity. This union is not a mixture whereby the humanity is deified or deity is reduced to human limitations. The finite does not become infinite, nor does the infinite become finite. The single Person of Christ partakes of the attributes of both natures. *This is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh.*

### **Aspects of Christ's Person:**

#### 1. *Eternal Deity*

The Bible refers to Christ with divine names.

The Bible ascribes to Christ the perfections of deity: He is infinite, eternal, and immutable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

The Bible ascribes to Christ the works of deity: creation, preservation, miracles, salvation, etc.

The Bible commands the worship of Christ.

#### 2. *Perfect Humanity*

The Bible refers to Christ as man.

The Bible reveals Christ had a true body: He had flesh and blood, ate, drank, slept, grew from infancy to manhood, experienced pain, and died.

The Bible reveals Christ had a rational soul: He increased in wisdom, experienced common human feelings, groaned in spirit, wept, loved, etc.

### **Implications of Christ's Two Natures:**

#### 1. *As God*

Christ kept the human nature from sinking under infinite wrath and power of death.

Christ gave infinite value and efficacy to His sufferings, obedience, and intercession.

Christ satisfied divine justice and procured divine favor, freeing others from the curse.

Christ conquered every enemy and assures everlasting salvation to His people.

## 2. *As Man*

Christ performed the required obedience to the law.

Christ paid the required penalty of the broken law that was due man.

Christ suffered our infirmities so that He can make effective intercession for us.

### **Evidence of the Hypostatic Union:**

*The Bible reveals both a communion of attributes and actions.*

Some passages predicate attributes or actions that apply to the whole Person, the God-Man.

Some passages predicate to the Person of Christ attributes or actions that specifically apply to the Divine nature (ex: Before Abraham was, I AM...).

Some passages predicate to the Person of Christ attributes or actions that specifically apply to the Human nature (ex: I thirst...).