

## Hypostatic Union of Jesus Christ

We are going to continue our study and 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 pages of Webster's Third New International Dictionary.

Why learn about the Hypostatic Union? If you desire inner peace in your soul, if you desire to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and knowledge of God the Father start with

**2 Peter 3:17 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,**

**2 Peter 3:18 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.**

**Colossians 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard about it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,**

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**Colossians 1:10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

**Colossians 1:11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously**

***HYPOSTATIC UNION DOCTRINE***

1. Definition: Let's start with a simple definition from Wikipedia: 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:

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*John 1:1-14*

***THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST***

**John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.**

**John 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.**

**John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.**

**John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men**

**John 1:5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**

***John the Witness***

**John 1:6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.**

**John 1:7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.**

**John 1:8 He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.**

**John 1:9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.**

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**John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.**

**John 1:11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.**

**John 1:12 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,**

**John 1:13 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***

**John 1:14 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***

**Romans 1:2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,**

**Romans 1:3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,**

**Romans 1:4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead,**

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**according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**Romans 1:5 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***

**Romans 9:5 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***

**Philippians 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,**

**Philippians 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,**

**Philippians 2:7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.**

**Philippians 2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

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**Philippians 2:9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name**

**Philippians 2:10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

**Philippians 2:11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**1 Timothy 3:16 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 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 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

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the ISN (Inherited Sin Nature). Through 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*. The Deity of Christ is always the Deity of Christ. The biblical understanding of what happened to the Deity of Christ at certain times during the incarnation is the true doctrine of kenosis.

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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 (true doctrine of kenosis). 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:

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 losing His Deity took upon Himself true humanity.

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

**Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His**



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**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 exists 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

**Hebrews 1:3 (updated) 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.

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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 is 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 He is true humanity.

8. There are false interpretations of the Hypostatic Union.

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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 Thinking!

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***

**1 Corinthians 2:12** 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,

**1 Corinthians 2:13** 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.

**1 Corinthians 2:14** But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot

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**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 unknowing.

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.