

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Is Jesus Christ True God, True Man, Or Both?

Know This...

The Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity became man without ceasing to be God. He is not two persons, but one Person with two natures: divine and human. Jesus did not spend His youth discovering that He was God. His humanity was always aware of His divinity. His human will was always subordinate to His divine will. Like us, Jesus experienced joy and acceptance, hunger and pain, temptation and rejection, even suffering and death. Millions of followers have given their lives for Him.



John: A Christian is a baptized follower of Jesus of Nazareth: a Jew who claimed to be the Son of the God, who took on human flesh, and died for the salvation of mankind.

James: Jesus is the only religious teacher who did not subordinate Himself to His message. Jesus is the message. He's the Word.

John: Christians believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man. Jesus means 'God saves' in Hebrew. Christ means 'anointed.'



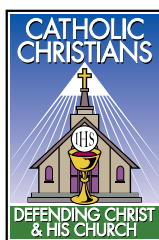
James: At His conception in the womb of the Virgin Mary, Jesus united a human nature with His divine nature; yet, He remained a divine Person.

John: Jesus was born free of Original Sin, full of grace, and unable to sin.

James: God became one like us in order to save us from death and sin, to show us God and His path to holiness, and to make us His sons and daughters.

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"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." *Jn 1:1, 14* This is the Christian dogma of the Incarnation: the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity took on human flesh and became man in all things, except sin. "John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Behold, the lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.'" *Jn 2:29*

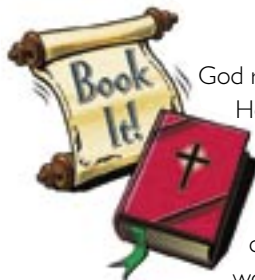
PAPA SAYS

"Therefore the Word of God, Himself God, the Son of God who 'in the beginning was with God,' through whom 'all things were made' and 'without' whom 'was nothing made,' with the purpose of delivering man from eternal death, became man: so bending Himself to take on Him our humility without decrease in His own majesty, that remaining what He was and assuming what He was not, He might unite the true form of a slave to that form in which He is equal to God the Father; and join both natures together by such a compact that the lower should not be swallowed up in its exaltation nor the higher impaired by its new associate." *St. Leo the Great, Pope, Sermo 1 in Nativitate Domini, 21. 2*



BE ATTITUDES

"Those who believe in His name are those who fully hold the name of Christ not in any way lessening His divinity or His humanity." *St. Thomas Aquinas, Commentary on St. John* "The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in His divinity, assumed our nature, so that He, made man, might make men gods." *St. Thomas Aquinas, Opusc., 57: 1-4* Jesus can make us holy.



God revealed His name to Moses. "I am who am." Then He added, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites, I AM sent me to you." *Ex 3:14* Jesus revealed His name to the Jews. "The Jews said to Jesus, 'Now we are sure that you are possessed. Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? Or the prophets, who died? Who do you make yourself out to be?' ... Jesus said to them, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM.'" *Jn 8:52-53, 58*

Almighty God and Father, Your only Begotten Son took on human flesh to save all Your children from the grip of sin and death. I pray that I might show my love for You through my faith and acts of charity. Give me the grace I need to remain forever grateful to Your Son and His Church. Through Your grace, may I reject the things of this world and focus on the beauty of the world to come. I ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

