Sermon: Jesus Christ, His Only Son

By: Rev. Dr. Iosmar Alvarez

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Series: I Believe

Introduction

Beloved in Christ, today we turn our hearts and minds toward a profound and central truth of our faith—the union of divine and human nature in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord. This understanding is not merely theological speculation; it underscores every aspect of our faith and devotion.

Belief Statement "I believe in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord."

Exploration of Jesus Christ's Divinity and Humanity

The Divine Nature of Christ

- 1. **Proclamation of Divinity**
- Jesus Christ, the Son of God, embodies divinity in its fullest measure. The angel Gabriel's announcement and the miracle of the Resurrection stand as irrefutable testimonies of His divine nature.
- 2. **Scriptural Affirmations**
- Throughout the New Testament, Jesus's claims to divinity are explicit. He identifies Himself with God in verses such as **John 1:1,18** and **Philippians 2:6-11**. His contemporaries recognized His divine status, a recognition evidenced in worship and reverence (**Matthew 14:33; John 20:28**).
- 3. **Significance of Divinity**
- Jesus's divine nature establishes His authority and ability to accomplish the salvation of humanity, asserting His rightful place as the eternal and sovereign Lord over all creation.

The Human Experience of Christ

- 1. **Manifestation of Humanity**
- Christ's birth story, shared through the Virgin Mary, reveals Him as human yet extraordinary. His life, portrayed across the Gospels, shows Him experiencing human needs such as hunger, fatigue, and emotion, authenticating His true humanity.
- 2. **Evidence of His Humanity**

- Born of a woman, facing temptation, and ultimately enduring the death on the cross, Jesus partook fully in the human condition—yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 2:22).
- 3. **Significance of Humanity**
- Jesus's humanity is essential for His role as the mediator between God and man. It enabled Him to offer a perfect sacrifice for sin, empathize with our weaknesses, and thus serve as our perfect high priest and advocate.

Theological Significance of Jesus's Dual Nature

Atonement for Sin: Jesus's unique position as both God and man allowed Him to be the perfect sacrifice, one that was sufficient to atone for humanity's sins.

- **Mediatory Role**: As God and man, Jesus bridges the gap between Heaven and Earth, providing the only path to reconciliation with the Father.
- **Fulfillment of Prophecy**: Jesus fulfills countless Old Testament prophecies concerning both the coming of God in the flesh and the suffering servant who would bear the sins of many.

Special Emphasis: Worship as a Proof of Divinity

In our exploration of the divinity and humanity of Jesus, a compelling proof of His divinity is found in the way His disciples and followers worshiped him. Let's delve deeper into this critical evidence:

Worship of Jesus by the Disciples

- In the gospel of Matthew, after Jesus calmed the storm, the disciples worshipped Him, exclaiming, "Truly you are the Son of God" (**Matthew 14:33**). This act of worship was not restricted to a casual respect but was a profound acknowledgment of His divine nature.

Contrast with Angelic Refusal of Worship

- Now, compare this with the accounts in Revelation, where John, the author of Revelation, experiences an encounter with angels. Twice, overwhelmed by the revelation and presence of these heavenly beings, John falls at their feet to worship. Each time, the angels quickly stop him, saying, "Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you" (**Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9**). The angels clearly refuse worship, acknowledging that worship belongs to God alone.

Significance of the Disciples' Worship

- The distinction between the disciples' worship of Jesus and John's interaction with angels in Revelation underscores a critical truth: **Jesus, unlike the angels, accepted worship**. In the context of Jewish monotheism, where worshipping any being other than God was blasphemous, Jesus' acceptance of worship from His disciples not only highlights His divine identity but also aligns with the scriptural portrayal of His Godly nature.

Theological Insight

- By examining these texts, we see a clear scriptural affirmation of Jesus's divine stature. His acceptance of worship, which is due to God alone, serves as a robust testament to His divinity. It aligns with the scriptural narrative where God declares, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only" (**Deuteronomy 6:13**).

Conclusion on Worship and Divinity

This clear dichotomy between Jesus's treatment and that of the angels significantly bolsters our faith in Jesus as the Divine Son of God, worthy of all worship and adoration. Let us, therefore, come before our Lord with hearts open in worship, recognizing His divine sovereignty and His empathetic humanity as our eternal Priest and King. Amen.

Quote: The Quran

The resurrection of Jesus in the same manner as described in the Christian New Testament. According to Islamic belief, Jesus was not crucified but was raised to Heaven by God. One of the key references to this event is found in Surah An-Nisa (Chapter 4:157-158):

"And [for] their saying, 'Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah.' And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain. Rather, Allah raised him to Himself. And ever is Allah Exalted in Might and Wise."

Call to Action: Living in Light of Christ's Divinity and Humanity

- 1. **Worship**: Recognizing Jesus in His full divine and human nature compels us to worship Him with awe, rooted in a deep understanding of who He is.
- 2. **Faith and Trust**: Understanding both natures of Jesus enhances our trust in Him. We know that He reigns sovereign yet understands our struggles and meets us at our point of need.

3. **Moral Example**: Jesus's life as a human provides a perfect model for us to follow, inspiring us to live lives of righteousness and service.

Conclusion: A Call to Faithfulness

Beloved, as we reflect on the magnificent dual nature of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us recommit ourselves to Him in faith and devotion. May the truth of His divinity inspire our worship, and His humanity our empathy and emulation. Thus, in recognizing both, we hold to a faith that is deeply rooted in the complete character of Jesus our Savior.

_Prayer:

Holy Spirit, by whom our Savior was conceived, mold our hearts to be receptive to Your divine movement. Infuse us with Your strength and purity. Amen.

_Benediction:

The comfort of the Holy Spirit, who brought our Savior into the world through a marvelous birth, watch over you as you spread the good news.