

## #2 Jesus Human and Divine

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### Part 1

For the next few months, I plan to discuss the person of Jesus. What I mean by that is that I'm not focussing on his teachings or the many stories about him. Rather I'll be talking about the issues that are raised when Christians claim Jesus is both human and divine. I hope to unpack the implications of this belief as they apply to our everyday faith and practice as Jesus' followers. In other words, our assertion about the nature of Jesus is not some esoteric theological point but has real implications for our daily lives.

No other religion makes this claim: that their founder or central spiritual leader is somehow both a human being and God at the same time.

Jews do not have one central human being whom they call divine. There are certain leaders such as Abraham, Moses, and David who had a special relationship with God. They are even said to have spoken with God directly. Moreover, there were Old Testament prophets such as Samuel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah who also were said to be in direct contact with God. In the New Testament, several of the apostles spoke with God, including Peter and Paul. However, none of these men are worshipped as God.

In Islam, Mohammad is the central figure, but Muslims would never consider him divine. Rather, he is regarded as being the last and greatest of all the prophets God has sent. It may surprise you to learn that Jesus, Moses, Abraham, and other Jewish teachers and leaders are regarded as prophets.

The essential profession of Judaism, called the Shema, is "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One." Muslims profess in the creed they call the Shahadah, "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammad is the messenger of Allah." However, Christians confess "Jesus is Lord." In other words, a specific human being who lived in a particular place at a particular time is God.

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Grace and Peace to You!

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***Please join us for Sunday Worship at 10:30!***

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