

#2 Jesus Human and Divine

Part 3

The implications of God's humanity for us

In 10 days we begin the season of Lent. It is intended to be a period of special self-reflection on how our lives are going in general and how acknowledging God's presence in our lives will make them better. Worship in all Christian traditions is often likened to getting a weekly dose of "fuel for our souls" just like when we stop at a gas station to get fuel for our cars. The problem with that analogy is that it implies that we only have to pay attention to God when we feel empty, just like we get gas only when the gauge is pointing to "E".

However, while all worship is intended to refresh and recharge us for the week ahead, we miss the point when we fail to take the message we heard and reflect on it during the week to apply it to our own situation. Worship, in other words, is not a weekly transaction like getting gas, rather, it is relational, because the overall message and worship experience should serve to bring us closer to Jesus as we dare to allow him more and more into our lives.

And that is what being a Christian is all about — it is how we differ from other human approaches to spirituality.

If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. He is not a peaceful feeling, because he can give us real peace. He is not an unsympathetic judge, because his judgement of us individually and even all humanity is just, reliable, and true. Yet He is, however, the best friend we will ever have, because he's experienced the highs and lows of all we go through first hand by living on this earth.

Many of us have friends whom we don't see for weeks, months, or even years. Yet we know that if we call them, or if they need us, we will be there for each other instantly. Why? Because we share a common human bond of life experiences and mutual support that can only be described as love.

Christians can say that Jesus loves us because he has experienced life directly. Not as a disembodied spirit, not as a good feeling, not as an abstract philosophical concept. He personally knew love and hate. He personally knew hunger and pain. He personally enjoyed laughter and friendship. He even got angry and told funny stories. Yes, he laughed. You can't be human and not laugh from time to time.

The Christian message assures us that in all the turmoil and doubt which is our lives, there is one person who not only "gets it" but is there 24/7 to love us through whatever it is. We don't have to see him. We don't have to touch him. He is just there.

Grace and Peace to You!

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Please join us for Sunday Worship at 10:30!

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