

# The Hypostatic Union

**Hypostasis:** The Underlying Principle of a thing

## **Hypostatic Union**

Jesus is fully God and fully human existing in one person.

## **THE DILEMMA**

### **1. Apollinaris (died 382AD)**

Jesus had a human body, but not a human mind or a human spirit

**Problem:** Could a person without a human soul save human souls?

#### **1 John 4:2**

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

### **2. Nestorius (386-450AD)**

Jesus was two distinct persons in one body.

**Problem:** Scripture never presents Jesus as more than one person.

### **3. Eutyches (Monophysitism) (380-456AD)**

Jesus was a mixture of natures. The human was absorbed into the divine to make a distinct kind of third nature.

**Problem:** This isn't supported by Scripture and is fraught with danger.

## **THE SOLUTION**

### **Creed of Chalcedon (451AD)**

We, then, following the holy fathers, all with one consent teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a rational soul and body; coessential with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the mother of God, according to the manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one person and one subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning have declared

concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the creed of the holy fathers has handed down to us.

**The mystery remains:** How can two natures exist in one person?

**The benefit is clear:** Because Jesus is fully human, He identifies with all humans, knows their struggle, has the same needs and temptations, and is capable of dying. Because Jesus is fully God He is without sin, incapable of remaining dead and able to save the humans he came to live among.

Colossians 1:15-20

**Colossians 2:9, 10a**

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete;