

## God the Son

The Father's greatest proof of His love for His creation came when He sent His only Son into the world. While it is certainly hard to believe that God would come and walk on this earth, there is no other reasonable argument for Jesus. No one disputes the claim that historically there was a man named Jesus who lived on this earth and founded a religion. Yet, Jesus was different from every other founder of a religion. While all other founders of religions claim to bring a message from God, Jesus claimed, not to be a simple messenger, but to actually be the Son of God.<sup>1</sup> Jesus then was either the greatest gift or the greatest fraud in human history and so there are really only three possibilities. Jesus could either be a liar, a lunatic, or who He claimed to be, the Son of God.

Jesus' Jewish contemporaries considered Him a liar and put Him to death for claiming to be God, but no sane person would die for a lie, so it makes no sense to claim Jesus was a liar. Perhaps then, He was crazy. While Jesus did many crazy things, like turning water into wine,<sup>2</sup> Jesus also did many rational things, like summarize the Ten Commandments into the two greatest commandments.<sup>3</sup> Since someone who is crazy, is crazy all the time, it makes no sense to claim that Jesus was crazy. Thus, the only option is for Jesus to be who He said He was, God.

As the Son of God, Jesus always existed<sup>4</sup> and is perfectly united with the Father.<sup>5</sup> He is fully God and fully man. Jesus possesses all qualities and attributes of God, while having a human body, human soul, human mind, human will etc. This perfect union of human and divine, called the hypostatic union, is not a mixture of Jesus' two natures, nor are they combined into a new God-man, but rather they are separate and act as unit in the one person of Jesus. In other words, Jesus' divinity does not supersede His humanity and His humanity does not supersede His divinity. He is perfectly God and perfectly man.

As Catholics, we profess that Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, which means that while Mary is Jesus' mother, Joseph is His adoptive Father, charged with caring for Him on earth. Jesus was born in Bethlehem between 6BC and 2BC and died on Calvary in His early 30's. Three days after His death, Jesus rose from the dead from His heavily guarded tomb and for the next 40 days appeared to His followers before ascending to the right hand of the Father "from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jn 10:36

<sup>2</sup> Jn 2: 1-11

<sup>3</sup> Mt 22:37-40

<sup>4</sup> Jn 1:1

<sup>5</sup> Jn 14:10

<sup>6</sup> Nicene Creed