**BIBLE QUESTIONS: SESSION 21**

**Questions:** *Analyze who is the man called Jesus, His nature, His essence, purpose. Did He have both a divine and human nature? Did only his human nature die on the cross? Can the two natures be separated?*

1. **Analyze who is the man called Jesus.**
	1. This discipline is called “Christology” – The study of the person and works of Jesus Christ.
2. **His nature** - Jesus’ nature is dual, he is both God and man
	1. This is a mystery. He is not part God and part man (a demigod), but “fully God and fully man”, true God and true man.
	2. His two natures to not act or operate independently, but through the singular person of Jesus Christ.
3. **His essence** - Being fully God, he is consubstantial with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
	1. Nicene Creed “Being of One Substance [essence] with the Father”
		1. John 10:30 “I and the Father are one”
		2. John 8:58 “Before Abraham was, I AM”
4. **His Purpose**
	1. In eternity, his purpose is to love the Father and the Spirit
		1. John 17:5 “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”
		2. 1 John 4:8 “God is love”
	2. In time, his purpose is
		1. Mediator between God and man, even in the OT
			1. 1 Cor. 10:1-4 “Our Fathers (the Israelites)…All drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.”
		2. Christ and Savior, as the person of God who took on human flesh and became a man and humbled himself to save our race, and grant eternal life to all who believe.
			1. Isaiah 53:10 “Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt”
5. **Did he have both a divine and human nature?**
	1. Yes, since the day of the Annunciation of Our Lord, when he assumed our human flesh from the blessed virgin Mary.
		1. John 1:1, 14 – “The Word was God, and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”.
6. **Did only his human nature die on the cross?** No.
	1. A nature cannot die, only a person dies. The whole person of Jesus, fully God and fully man, died on the Cross.
	2. To say that only one nature died is the heresy of “Nestorianism”…which treats the two natures of Christ as though Jesus was two persons, rather than one person with two natures.
	3. Though it is accurate to say “God died”, insofar as Jesus is God. It is false to say that the Father died (Patrapassionism), or the Holy Spirit died.
	4. We do say that Jesus died “according to his humanity/human nature/flesh”, but it is false to say his “human nature” died.
		1. C.f., Romans 1:3—Jesus “was descended from David *according to the flesh*”
7. **Can the two natures be separated?** No.
	1. The two natures are eternally united in the singular person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This union is called the “hypostatic union”.
	2. To teach that the natures can subsist separately is to teach there are two Jesuses, one that is god and one that is man. That is heresy.
		1. Historical Christological heresies: Docetism, Marcionism, Nestorianism, Appolonarianism, Eutychianism/Monophysitism, Monotheletism
			1. The Council of Chalcedon settled the matter succinctly that Jesus’ two natures are *inseparable, but distinct***. “**unconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably.”