



The Gospel Way Catechism

Question 5: Who Is God the Son?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What are some of the words that the world uses to describe Jesus? Why do you think they choose those words?

How did you first understand Jesus? How has your understanding of Him changed over time?

QUESTION 5: Who is God the Son?

ANSWER: God the Son is the eternal Word who took on humanity: Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah of Israel and King of the world. He is not a life coach or therapist who affirms all our desires, but the Great Physician whose blood heals our sin-sick hearts.

The identity of Jesus has been established since well before His birth. We have a few terms that help us understand him:

Incarnation:

The eternal Son of God, without ceasing to be God, united himself with a human nature that he did not previously possess, resulting in the perfect and permanent union of humanity and deity without either nature being diminished.

Hypostatic Union:

Following, therefore, the holy Fathers, we confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and we do with one voice teach one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-Begotten, acknowledged to be in two natures, without confusion, change, division, separation; the distinction of natures being by no means destroyed by their union; but rather the distinction of each nature being preserved and concurring in one Person and one Hypostasis; not in something that is parted or divided into two persons, but in one and the same and Only-Begotten Son, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. – Council of Chalcedon – 451AD

Beyond the characteristics and references in the chapter, consider these ideas:

PRINCIPLES:

Jesus is fully human

He was born (Luke 2:1-7), He grew (Luke 2:40, 52), He got tired (John 4:6)

He was hungry (Matthew 4:2) and thirsty (John 19:28)

He felt emotional pain (Matthew 27:46)

He died (Matthew 27:50)

He had a human body when He was resurrected (John 20:20, 27)

He was emotional, including wonder (Matt. 8:10) and sorrow (Matt. 26:38, John 11:33-35)

He grew physically as well as intellectually (Luke 2:52)

Jesus is fully God

He was born supernaturally (Luke 1:30-38)

He performed miracles including:

walking on water (Matthew 14:25), raising the dead (John 11:38-44), exorcising demons (Mark 5:1-13), healing physical ailments (Mark 2:3, John 9:7, etc.), producing food and drink (John 6, John 2), entering a room through a locked door (John 20)

Jesus understood Himself to be God:

John 4:1-45: He identifies himself to the woman at the well

John 8:31-59: He is not from this world and that he lived before Abraham did.

John 10:22-39: He is doing the Father's work, and that He is one with the Father

Jesus' followers understood Him to be God:

Matthew 16:13-20: Peter gets the right answer about Jesus' identity

Jesus' opponents understood Him to be calling Himself God:

John 10:11-21: He identified Himself as the "Good Shepherd"; the Jews disputed His identity

Jesus personifies grace and truth

John 1:14-18 - Jesus makes God known by being full of grace and truth.

<u>Grace</u>	<u>Truth</u>
Forgiveness of sin	Sin no more
God's wrath on Jesus	Forgive as you are forgiven
Unconditional love	Perfect holiness
Ongoing mercy	Continual faithfulness

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

Does the Incarnation and the hypostatic union help or hinder your trust in Jesus?

What makes Jesus more than simply a good teacher?

How do you respond to the world's perspective on Jesus? What are some ways you can talk about Him given how His identity is described in Scripture?