

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

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"FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST"

Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23). From this verse we can see that following Jesus requires *self-denial* and *daily cross bearing*. (Also see 1 Peter 2:21). Many people who claim to be followers of Christ do not understand what is *required of followers of Christ*. Let us consider some requirements for following Christ.

I. WE MUST HEAR, BELIEVE AND OBEY THE WORD OF JESUS CHRIST!

In John 5:24 Jesus said, "He that *heareth* my word, and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life..."

In John 14:1 Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, *believe also in me*". (Also see John 8:24; 20:30-31).

In John 14:21 Jesus said, "He that *hath my commandments*, and *keepeth them*, he it is that loveth me." (Also see John 12:46-48).

II. WE MUST PUT CHRIST BEFORE OUR RELATIVES!

We learn from John 10:34-36 that Jesus came to "set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her

mother in law" and "a man's foes shall be those of his own household." NOTE: To follow Jesus Christ one must stand against sin and error although one's relatives believes and practices such. In John 10:37 Jesus said, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

III. WE MUST TAKE UP OUR CROSS DAILY! This is a figurative statement denoting that we must endure whatever is burdensome and trying in following Christ. It suggests that we must bear our own responsibilities regardless of the cost. (Cf. Gal, 6:5; Rom. 14:12).

IV. WE MUST PUT CHRIST BEFORE HARDSHIPS! In following Christ we will be faced with hardships. There will be opposition, afflictions and persecutions. Paul said, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (2 Tim. 3:12). Also see 2 Tim. 1:8; 2 Cor. 11:23-29; 1 Pet. 4:12-16).

V. WE MUST CONTINUE IN HIS WORD! Jesus said, "If ye *continue in my word* then are ye my disciples indeed..." (John 8:31). Are you a true follower of Jesus Christ? (CRS)

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Editorial...

JESUS WAS A MAN!

[NOTE: In this study we are not discussing the Deity of Jesus. Without question Jesus was Deity *before* He came to earth. He was Deity *while* on earth and He *always* will be Deity. In this study we are considering the *humanity* of Jesus Christ on earth. Was Jesus in *reality* a human being?]

For several years there has been much discussion relative to the *humanity* of Jesus Christ. A number of articles have been written and the subject has been discussed in public debate. Charges and counter charges have been made. At times it seems that love and fairness have not always been present. Some brethren have been alienated and division has occurred.

All that we can know about the *humanity* of Jesus is what we can learn from the *Scriptures*. Let us consider some facts about Jesus Christ.

1. THE EXPRESSION "**SON OF MAN**" (REFERRING TO JESUS) IS FOUND IN THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES AT LEAST 80 TIMES. (Cf. Mt. 12:40; Mk. 14:21; LK. 9:22; John 5:27; Acts

7:56, etc.). This expression may be emphasizing the *humanity* of Jesus of Nazareth. We find the expression "*the Son of David*" a number of times in the New Testament. (Cf. Mt. 1:1; Mk. 12:35-37; Luke 18:35-43, etc.). It, too, indicates that Christ was a man. The expression "*the Son of God*" is found 45 times or so, (Cf. Mt. 4:3-6; Mk. 1:1; Luke 1:35; John 1:34; Acts 9:20; Rom. 1:4; 2 Cor. 1:19, etc.) and "*Son*" and *other* expressions are found that also indicate the *Deity* of Jesus Christ. NOTE: Without question, the Scriptures teach both the *humanity* and the *Deity* of Jesus.

2. CHRIST JESUS "WAS MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN"; AND WAS "FOUND IN FASHION AS A MAN" ACCORDING TO PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8. NOTE: Jesus was *not* made in the *likeness of angels* (or animals) and was *not* found in *fashion as an angel* (or an animal). *He was made in the likeness of men and was found in fashion as a man!*

3. GOD SENT CHRIST "IN THE LIKENESS OF SINFUL FLESH". Romans 8:3 says that God sent "**His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.**" NOTE: Christ came in the flesh as all men do. Men in the flesh are tempted to sin. Jesus "**was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**" (Hebrews 4:14-15). All accountable men have sinned *except* Jesus Christ. (See Rom. 3:23; Gal. 3:22; 1 John 1:10; 1:8).

4. THE WORD WAS MADE (OR BECAME) FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US! John 1:14 says: "**And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**" The ASV says: "**And the Word became flesh ...**" The NASV and the NKJV also say, "**And the word became flesh...**"

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NOTE: It isn't *essential* that we explain *how the Word was made* (or *became*) *flesh*, but it is *essential* that we believe it!

5. JESUS WAS A MAN!

A. John the Baptist referred to Jesus as "*a man*". John declared: "**This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.**" (John 1:30). NOTE: John was a great prophet. Of those born of women none were greater than John was. (Cf. Mt. 11:7-13). QUESTION: Was John deceived in thinking that Jesus was *a man*? Or was Jesus really *a man*?

B. The Samaritan woman that Jesus met at the well near Sychar referred to him as "*a man*". She said to the men of the city, "**Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?**" (John 4:29).

C. The blind man in John 9 whom Jesus healed referred to Jesus as "*a man*". He said: "**A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.**" (9:11). Also see 9:33.

D. The Pharisees in John 9:16 referred to Jesus as a "*man*". Some of them said, "**This man is not of God...**" and others said, "**How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?**"

E. The chief priests and the Pharisees (gathered a council) and said: "**What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.**" (John 11:47).

F. Caiaphas (the high priest) referred to Jesus as "*one man*". (See John 11:49-52; 18:14).

G. The disciples of Jesus referred to Him as "*a man*". In Mt.

8:27 they said: "**What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?**"

G. The damsel (servant girl) in John 18:17 referred to Jesus as *a man*. She said to Peter: "**Art not thou also one of this man's disciples?**"

H. Peter, an apostle, referred to Jesus as *a man* in his denial of Jesus. In Mt. 26:72 he said, "...**I do not know the man.**" (Also read Mt. 26:74; Mk. 14:71).

I. Pilate, a Roman ruler, referred to Jesus as "*this man*" and "*the man*". In Luke 23:4 Pilate said to the chief priests and to the people, "**I find no fault in this man**". In verse 6 "**he asked whether the man were a Galilean.**" Also see verses 13-14; John 18:29; 19:5).

J. The centurion referred to Jesus as "*this man*" and as "*a righteous man*". He said: "**Truly this man was the Son of God**" and "**Certainly this was a righteous man**". (See Mk. 15:39; Luke 23:47).

K. The Jews in John 10:33 referred to Jesus as "*a man*". They said: "...**because thou, being a man, makest thyself God.**"

L. Jesus while on earth, referred to Himself as "*a man*". Speaking to some Jews who believed on Him, Jesus said, "**But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God...**" (John 8:40). NOTE: Jesus was *the Son of God*! Was He deceived in thinking that He was *a man*? Or was He *truly* in reality *a man*?

Were all of the above, including the prophet John, the disciples of Jesus and even Jesus Himself, *deceived* in their thinking that Jesus was *a man*? Did he only look *like* a man but *He was not really a man*? Did Jesus only *appear* to be a man but *He really* wasn't a man?

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Jesus was born of a woman, Mary. (See Mt.1:21-25; Luke 1:28-35).

2. Jesus is spoken of as a "babe" soon after His birth; then as a "young child". At the age of eight days He was "circumcised".(See Lk. 2:12, 16; Mt. 2:8-21; Luke 2:21).

3. Jesus (as a child) "**grew, and waxed** (became - NKJV) **strong in spirit...**" (Luke 2:40).

4. "**...Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.**" (Luke 2:52).

5. Concerning Jesus some said: "**Is not the carpenter, the son of Mary...?**" (Mark 6:3).

6. Jesus *hungered, ate, drank and slept.* (Cf. Mt. 21:18; Luke 7:34; Mt. 8:24).

7. Jesus *sweated.* (Lk. 22:44).

8. Jesus said, "**Now is my soul troubled**" (John 12:27), and "**My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death**". (Mk. 14:34).

9. Jesus paid taxes. (Mt. 17)

10. Jesus "**groaned in the**

spirit, and was troubled" and He *wept.* (See John 11:33-38).

11. Jesus *prayed* to God. (Luke 6:12). He *learned obedience* by the things He suffered. (See Heb. 5:8).

12. Jesus became a *partaker* of flesh and blood. (See Heb. 2:14).

13. Jesus *suffered, was killed and buried.* (Lk. 9:22; 1 Cor. 15:4).

14. Jesus was *obligated to be made like His brethren in all things.* (See Hebrews 2:17 - NKJV).

15. Jesus "**was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.**" (Hebrews 4:15 - NKJV).

The Word of God is clear. The evidence is overwhelming! Jesus not only came in the *likeness* of men and was found in *fashion* as a man, but *verily He was a man!* Jesus *was a man!* The Scriptures so teach. Any one who denies that *Jesus in reality was a man* does so in face of clear, plain evidence in the Word of God. "**Let no man deceive you**". (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

WESTLAND, MI- September 5-10, 1999.

Sugar Creek, HAYDEN, AL Dec. 3-5, 1999.

SENTENCE SERMONS

If you are unkind, you are the wrong kind. "Be ye kind one to another..." (Eph. 4:32)..

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To be sound, an argument must be true.

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To truly please God we must *stand for* the right things and *stand against* the wrong things.

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"*The foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men*".

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While traveling the road toward heaven, please don't forget to check the road map regularly.

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