

WHAT WE BELIEVE – God Understands Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:15-16

In this series, we are laying a doctrinal floor upon which to stand...

To stand against the forces of darkness that seek to unsettle and destroy us... as well as the testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ that we cling to!

There are real enemies out there... the devil... the world... the flesh... They don't just present opposing views, they present opposition & oppression!

Jesus said it this way, ***"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*** – John 10:10

- Steal what? Our joy... In God... In our relationship to Him... In God's design...
- Kill what? Anything, or anyone, that/who stands in their way!
- Destroy what? All hope in a God who is both all-powerful & sovereign!

God offers us life... abundant, eternal life... but our enemies distort & have ruined this precious gift! But Jesus came to redeem... revive... restore...

But it didn't come easy, and it didn't come free! The incarnation of Jesus is God's way of showing us that He knows the problem & He has the solution!

We believe that:

- God is, was, and forever will be...
- God creates...
- God speaks...
- God is with us...

Today we declare that God understands... But what do we believe He understands, and what difference does His understanding make in our lives?

- Does God, the creator & sustainer of the universe, understand what it's like to be a created being, with all our shortcomings & limitations?
- Does God, who holds humanity in His hands, really understand what it's like to stumble & fall, and need to be upheld by the hands of another?
- Does God who is perfect, holy, without sin... understand what it's like to walk in our shoes as imperfect, unholy, and sinful people from birth?
- Can God truly relate with us, understand us, when He is God and we are human? If He can't understand what it's like to be one of us, how can we, as humans, find comfort in Him & in His understanding?

How can we ***"with confidence draw near to the throne of God..."*** Heb. 4:16

GOD UNDERSTANDS – ***"We believe when Jesus walked this earth, He was both fully God (conceived by the Holy Spirit), and fully human (born of the virgin Mary). Therefore, God understands our greatest human needs and He can address them through His Son."***

How does believing that Jesus was/is fully God help us know that God understands us? _____

How does believing that Jesus was/is also fully man help us know that God understands us? _____

How can Jesus embody both humanity & the Divine? I have no idea... but He does! There's mystery in it, but our very hope of salvation is built upon it!

If Jesus wasn't fully God, then...

- Our sins could never be atoned for by anyone other than ourselves...
- He could never be a sufficient sacrifice "once for all" for sin...
- Death & the grave would not be forever defeated...
- There would be no hope in the battle against our 3 sworn enemies...
- We would not have a human voice in heaven advocating for us...
- There would be no place being prepared for us in glory...
- We would have no access to God...

If Jesus wasn't fully man, then...

- The true price for our sin has not yet been paid (in the flesh)...
- We don't have a faithful high priest (one able to stand as an intercessor) ...
- How could we know that God truly understands what it's like to be human?
- Why would we turn to God when He seems so far removed...?

Jesus' death in the flesh paid the ultimate price for our sin, thus defeating & destroying the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil - Heb. 2:14

With our enemy defeated, and his greatest weapon removed, what then do we have to fear, be anxious about, or try to take control over, when God has shown Himself to be more than sufficient to meet our human needs!

If He understands, and has addressed our greatest human need, then He can be trusted to understand and address our lesser needs as well!

If we are ever tempted to think God doesn't understand us, or what we are going through, look to Jesus, for He is the way... the truth... the life...

When we understand that God truly understands, then we can turn to Him no matter what we face in this life... For He has, and will, make a way!

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