The Communication of Attributes in the Person of Christ

The Divine Nature

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us

Person of the eternal Logos
Son of God and
Second Person of the Holy Trinity

Assumed from the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

The Personal Union

True God and True Man

1. Each nature has its own essential characteristics. They are shared in the same Person.

The Son of God is human because He was born, lives, grows, gets tired, must eat and sleep, suffers, and dies.

The Son of God is divine because He is eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, immortal.

Divine Attributes (Characteristics)

ETERNAL (always was, always will be)
OMNIPRESENT (present everywhere)
OMNIPOTENT (all-powerful)
IMMORTAL (ever-alive, cannot die)
OMNISCIENT (all-knowing)

Human Attributes (Characteristics)

Was born, grew, lived, and aged
Lived in Judea

Became tired, had to eat and sleep
Mortal, able to suffer and die
Learned and grew in knowledge

Essential to Christ's Divine Nature

Essential to Christ's Human Nature



2. Divine characteristics are transferred to the human nature by virtue of the Personal Union. We can say Jesus the Man is all-powerful, all-knowing, etc., because He is the God-Man. So He could know people's thoughts, perform miracles, etc. But the human characteristics are not transferred to the divine nature.

3. All that Jesus is — God and Man — works together for our salvation.

The Two Natures are truly and inseparably joined in the Personal Union without being mingled, changed: unconfusedly unchangeably indivisibly inseparably

Neither flesh outside word, nor word outside flesh

A Brief Definition of the Communication of Attributes (Characteristics)

- 1. The attributes of the human nature and the attributes of the divine nature are shared in the same person but are not essential to both natures. Each nature has its own essential attributes. (*Genus ldiomaticum*)
- 2. The Divine attributes are transferred to the human nature by virtue of the Personal Union. But they never become an essential attribute of the human nature. The communication is strictly one way. (*Genus Majestaticum*)
- 3. The full set of attributes work for our salvation. The redemption of mankind is accomplished by the theanthropic (God-Man) person of Jesus Christ. (*Genus Apotelesmaticum*)