

# GOD AND MAN

Orthodox Christians have always upheld the teachings of the Scriptures and the early Church concerning Jesus Christ.

## JESUS CHRIST

- is **one person** who
- possesses **two separate and distinct natures** — *the divine and the human*.

## SON OF MAN

*And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as the only-begotten Son of the Father. And from His fullness have we all received grace upon grace.*

—John 1:14-18



**Jesus Christ is man** because He took on the human nature when He was *born of the Virgin Mary*. Just as He bears the fullness of the divine nature, Jesus likewise possesses *all* that is appropriate to the *human nature*. Like us, He experienced joy and sadness, sickness and health, even temptation and death. Jesus identified with humanity so intimately that he constantly referred to Himself as **the Son of Man**.

## WHO, THEN, IS JESUS CHRIST?

- **The Son of God**, *begotten* of the Father
- **The Son of Man**, having taken on our human nature by being *born* in the flesh of the Virgin Mary

## WHAT, THEN, IS JESUS CHRIST?

- **One person** who is *both God and man*
- **Divine and human**

## FALSE TEACHINGS ABOUT JESUS

Throughout history, a number of *false teachings* concerning the two natures of Jesus emerged.

- some claimed that Jesus was *only human*.
- Others believed that He was *only divine*.
- Some taught that Jesus possessed *only one nature* — a *combination* of the divine and human.
- Still others felt that there were actually *two persons* known as Jesus Christ — a *human one* and a *divine one*!

**The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed** was written specifically to combat these *heresies*.

## SON OF GOD



*In the beginning was the Word (Jesus Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.*

—John 1:1-3

**Jesus Christ is God** because he was *begotten of God the Father*. Jesus receives the *divine nature* from His divine Father. He bears *the fullness* of the divine nature and, as such, is ever-existing, all-powerful, all-loving, all-knowing, all-merciful, and eternally the same. **Jesus Christ is fully God**, “true God of true God.”