

Hello Everyone,

You may be wondering why I have decided to write an article on the Humanity of Yeshua (Jesus). I feel that it is an important topic, one which is fundamental to our understanding and identifying with Yeshua (Jesus) in a more intimate way. When one recognizes the humanity of Yeshua, I believe it is possible to gain a deeper relationship with him knowing that Yeshua understands where we are, what we are going through, and what it takes to make it though the trials and troubles we have in life. Therefore, I would like to make some comments on the humanity of Yeshua (Jesus). I begin by introducing creationism and evolution having a few thoughts which I have been rolling around in my head that then lead to the topic concerning the humanity of Yeshua (Jesus).

Introduction

It seems today fewer and fewer people believe in biblical truth, such as creationism, where God created in six literal days. A large majority of Christians today are taking a perspective borrowed from evolutionary thought or some kind of old age earth scenario. The results of such beliefs are causing a trend in post Christian societies. For example, today Europe is a post Christian society; churches are being turned into museums, and church attendance is way down. (1-3) Recently, a survey is being performed by the BBC (4) here in the USA on the topic of creationism versus evolution. The BBC has chosen, The Chapel in Green (5), the church I attend, to interview the preachers concerning the topic of creation versus evolution. This topic is a big one these days, especially in light of the recent high profile cases at public schools such as the one in Kansas (6), university professors (7), and local newspapers in Tennessee (8), creationism certainly is a hot topic. During the recent interview with The-Chapel, the BBC reported to my pastor statistics for those who believe in creationism. The BBC said only 15% of the population who identify themselves to be Christian in Europe and the United Kingdom (UK) still believe that God created in six literal days. The statistics are considerably higher here in the USA; however the trend is obvious, the Christian church is waning (diminishing) in its fundamental beliefs in creationism in the USA.

Some would argue that evolutionary teaching is causing fewer and fewer people to go to church these days; so, I ask the question, why are people relating less to the church and to God today as compared to the past. Lack of concern or desire to attend church, whatever the reason, is a growing trend here in the USA. This is what is called "forsaking the assembling of themselves with fellow believers" and the bible is not silent on this topic either. (9, 10) The reason should be obvious, when asked people are saying "the church has lost its humanity." The problem is many people are going to church simply to play church, rather than the real purpose of assembling ourselves together which is (i) to learn, (ii) to discuss, and (iii) to work out issues related to our faith which are found in the bible. Practical application is the name of the game and this is what the world is seeing, a lack of practical application in the life of Christians. We absolutely can not live an isolated life when it comes to Christianity, we need to be among others of the same faith, as iron sharpens iron (11), so we should be involved with discussion over the

scriptures and sharing our faith with others (unbelievers). If we isolate ourselves from the Christian church we place ourselves in a dangerous position because we have no "differing opinions," which when engaged cause us to dig into the scriptures, to learn and to study. But instead, this lack of church attendance can lead to misconceptions, misinterpretations, and even as far as deception can result. This is what I call being "an island unto yourself" and I can tell you a lot of people are being an island unto themselves. The feeling of not being able to identify with the bible, or the church, or other Christian believers has to do with understanding who Yeshua (Jesus) really is which leads to the topic for discussion Jesus' humanity.

Jesus' Humanity

People in the UK and Europe when asked reply that the church has lost its humanity. They say it is difficult to identify with the church and Christianity. The reason is a lot of people today have separate lives, one for church, and one for the world. One of the greatest struggles today for Christians is to live his/her life following the example of Yeshua (Jesus) and not separated from his/her faith. This is something even I struggle with, my imagination, trying to keep my mind on the things of Christ as much as possible without the divergences into the dark and evil things which my mind is capable of devising. The struggles I have result from being human and a sinful man. So I want to look at what is humanity, what does humanity mean?

Oxford's thesaurus

Humanity: **noun**

- *the humanity of Christ*: HUMAN NATURE, humanness, mortality.
- *he praised them for their humanity*: COMPASSION, brotherly love, fellow feeling, humaneness, kindness, consideration, understanding, sympathy, tolerance; leniency, mercy, mercifulness, pity, tenderness; benevolence, charity.

Oxford's Dictionary

Humanity: **noun** (plural **humanities**)

- the human race. ► the state of being human.
- compassion or benevolence.
- (**humanities**) learning concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy.

Oxford's dictionary has a good definition I would like to use to describe humanity which is "the state of being human." The state of being human involves the trials and pains we all go through in life. From the day we are born, we go through various experiences in life, joy and happiness, peace, blessing, and humility as well as pain, sorrow, suffering, sadness, crying, and disappointments all of these are what it means to be human. It is in this way God identified with mankind, by putting on humanity in the person of Yeshua (Jesus). I put together a simple diagram of Yeshua's life shown in Figure 1.

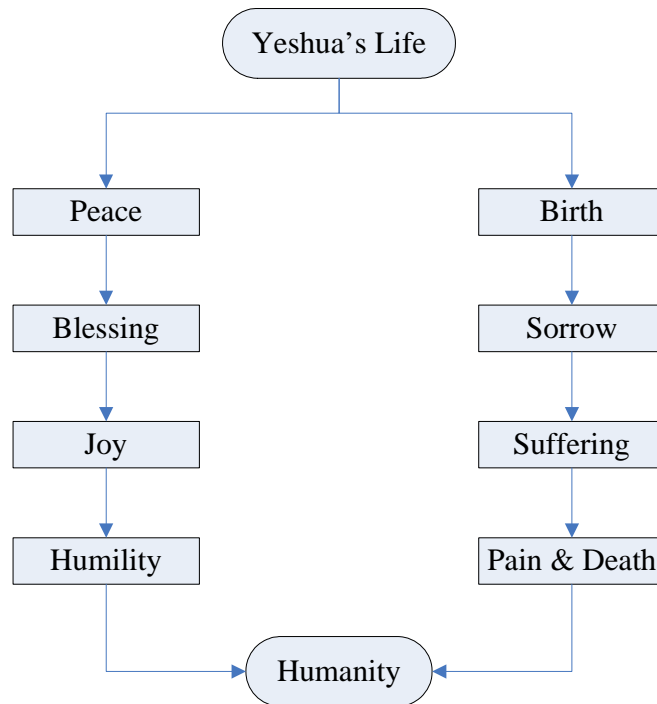


Figure 1 Simplified block diagram of Yeshua's humanity.

Just like we were born, Yeshua (Jesus) was born (12, 13). We have heart aches and sorrows, Yeshua also had heart aches and sorrows. (14) We suffer in many ways here on earth, some of us in developed countries don't even know what suffering really is, but I believe suffering comes in many forms, Yeshua (Jesus) suffered for our sins, he too understands what suffering (15) is about on this earth. We all have pain in our lives, from cuts and burns to the pain of our hearts, Yeshua (Jesus) understands what pain is, and he even knows what it is to die. (16-18) On the brighter side of things, we know what it is to be at peace, Yeshua (Jesus) also gives us his peace(19, 20). Yeshua also understands what it is to be happy, joyful, and to rejoice (21) and he is most probably the meekest and humble of heart man we have ever known here on earth. (22, 23) I am sure the list could go on and on but I think we all get the picture. As you can see it is in this way God identified with mankind, he put on humanity in the person of Yeshua (Jesus). God so loved us, that he sent his only begotten son so that he could come here on earth, and identify with us, showing us how much he truly loves us, and then lay down his life for our sins; there really is no greater love than that. (24)

Knowing that Yeshua (Jesus) has experienced humanity as we have (Yeshua was tempted, but he did not sin), I feel this brings him closer to us, someone with whom we can identify with when we pray. You see, when we pray, Yeshua is not some far removed person, but rather someone who "KNOWS", knows our trials, hurts, pains, as well as our joy, and happiness. When I ask Yeshua for strength in prayer, I know that he knows exactly what I need, and how much strength to give me. It is this fundamental truth that I feel helps me personally to identify with Yeshua (Jesus) in a more intimate way.

So, when all is said and done, it is in this way God identified with me and you, by putting on humanity in the person of Yeshua (Jesus). I believe God chose this method of identifying to help us to better understand who he is, and to more fully grasp the message God is trying to get across to us. That salvation comes in him and through him and that by putting on humanity in the person of Yeshua, we can fully and completely trust and rely upon him for all of our needs.

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Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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הללויה לארוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi, "YESHUA" King Messiah for ever and ever!!!