***Systematic Theology 022 Christology II Why the Son of God Had to Become Man***

* + 1. The need for the Hypostatic union (the following is taken from Evidence That Demands a Verdict, by Josh McDowell.
			1. He had to become man in order to save mankind:
				1. Only a man could die both spiritually and physically, the prerequisites for the saving act on the cross and the subsequent resurrection.
				2. In this regard Jesus Christ is the full revelation of justice and love and genius of God.
				3. Justice because God had to satisfy His own righteousness concerning the sinful state of mankind.
				4. Philippians 2:5-8, “5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”
				5. Hebrews 2:14-15, “14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”
				6. Romans 3:21-26, “21 But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26 for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”
				7. Hebrews 2:17, “Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”
				8. 1 John 2:2, “...and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”
				9. 1 John 4:9-10, “9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.”
			2. He had to become man in order to be a true mediator between God and man.
				1. Job 9:2,32-33, “2 In truth I know that this is so; But how can a man be in the right before God? ...32 For *He is* not a man as I am that I may answer Him, That we may go to court together. 33 There is no umpire between us, Who may lay his hand upon us both.”
				2. 1 Timothy 2:5-6, “5 For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time.”
				3. God could only be a true mediator between Himself in perfection and mankind in total depravity by becoming man.
			3. He had to become man in order to be our high priest.
				1. Hebrews 7:28-8:3, “28 For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, *appoints* a Son, made perfect forever. Hebrews 8:1 Now the main point in what has been said *is this*: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. 3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this *high priest* also have something to offer.”
				2. Hebrews 10:11-14, “11 Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; 12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, 13 waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. 14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.”
				3. This high priesthood is the official term for the mediator. The high priest would be the mediator between God and man on the Day of Atonement in the ritual plan for Israel.
			4. He had to become man in order to be the perfect prototype of the Christian life, setting the example for all believers to follow.
				1. Hebrews 12:1-2, “1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
				2. Hebrews 2:18, “For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, he is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.
			5. He had to become man in order to judge all men. John 5:22-30, “22 "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, 23 so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. 24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. 25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man. 28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment. 30 "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”