

Human Development of Jesus vs Human Development of Mankind

The unique aspect of the birth of Jesus was His conception Lk 1:31, 35. After conception, Mary experienced a normal pregnancy & birth Lk 2:6-7. Once Jesus was born, He experienced normal human development. Normal does not indicate that it was the same as ours, but as God originally intended human development. We want to contrast His growth & development, His thinking, beliefs, attitudes & habitual responses to ours.

1. How beliefs are developed & habituated

- a. Best analogy is programing a computer – beliefs are internal commands
- b. Human experience → Mind Evaluates based on beliefs previously accepted
- c. Determine what, why, how, meaning, etc. to reach a helpful conclusion
- d. If conclusion believed, then conclusion/idea is transferred to heart/conscience to be applied to appropriate situations.
- e. As new idea is used to deal with life it turns into a habit & over time it becomes an automatic response to certain circumstances, lost to conscious awareness.
- f. Both the New Man (Bible - Christ) & Old Man (World - Adam) are belief systems, made up of the accumulated ideas we have believed throughout our life.

Jesus

God, The Holy Spirit – 23 male chromosomes

- No condemnation
- No sin nature

Divine Nature + God, The Holy Spirit

- Open communication w/God
- Fulfilled Soul

Bonded with God, The Holy Spirit

- Perfect parenting
- Protected from sins/others

Processed truth from birth

- Perfect development
- Conclusions/adversity/truth
- Trusted God, The Father to protect Him

Adamic Man

Earthly father 23 male chromosomes

Condemned to Lake/Fire

Inherited sin nature w/predisposition

Spiritually dead – separated from God

No communication w/God – no truth

Frustrated Soul

Bonded with imperfect parent

Inherit/conditioning flaws

Damaged by sins/others

Devoid of truth until new birth

Distorted development

Conclusions/adversity/lies

Trusted self to protect us

Jesus in His humanity was able to depend on God, The Father & God, The Holy Spirit from the beginning of His life. He was able to reach conclusions based on truth at every stage of development. He grew perfectly into the divine perspective of life and the plan of God. Jesus built only new man thinking and remained sinless all His life

In contrast, we were born separated from God with a sin nature into a family with sinful parents in the devil's world. We were at the mercy of these forces with only our own human resources to guide us and protect us. We all built our own mechanisms to meet our needs and protect ourselves – strongholds of human logic that unintentionally stand against God. This is the old man belief system that when taken off, we can build the new man after the pattern of Christ.

Jesus, because of His relationship with God, The Father & God, The Holy Spirit and His ability to process the truth of God's word was able to face the harsh realities of the devil's world and surrender Himself to the Father's plan by choosing to believe the truth.

Mt 4: 1-11 – temptations in the desert

Three specific tests administered by Satan – Jesus answered them all with the word of God

Lk 22:39-44 – temptation in the Garden of Gethsemane

If there is any other way..... not my will but your will be done

Fallen man as a condemned unbeliever, because of being separated from God, having a sin nature is not able to process truth. When faced with the harsh realities of the devil's world, man's universal reaction is to distort reality through human defense mechanisms.

Defense Mechanism: an unconscious distortion of reality that causes disturbing material to be kept from conscious awareness enabling us to feel comforted about the situation.

Denial – denying the existence of some flaw, threat or traumatic event

Peter – denied the existence of and refused to face his cowardice even when Jesus predicted that he would deny him Mt 26:31-35

- Even if all the others fall away – I will never fall away
- Even if I must die with you – I will not deny you

Peter was faced with the awful and disturbing reality that he was about to betray the person he loved more than anyone in his life, except Himself. He refused to face the truth about himself: that he was afraid to suffer and die, that he was still more committed to himself than he was to the Lord. Rather than face this reality, he simply denied its existence. He distorted reality in his own mind because it was too troubling to face it. His refusal to face the truth about himself caused him to be unprepared for the challenge. Think of the moments in relationships where he missed the opportunity to reflect God's grace and instead acted from fear. The opportunities for intimacy that were missed because he was afraid of being vulnerable & believed he had to keep up his pretense.

Victory – taking off the old man & putting on the new man Eph 4:22-24

Lk 22:61-62 - And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a cock crows today, you will deny Me three times." 62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

1. **Revealed** - God allowed Peter to be faced with reality – revealed his stronghold so that he could lay it aside and deal with himself in truth.
2. **Rebound** – confession of the sins that result from strongholds
3. **Repentance** – recognition of a stronghold offers us the opportunity to change our mind about what we believe – Peter learned he was weak and needed grace.
4. **Renewal** – Choose to learn, believe and apply the truth about the issue
5. **Reward** – letting go of our human wisdom/strength & surrendering ourselves to God's grace & mercy rewards us with peace, joy & strength in this life and eternal rewards in the life to come.