

A close-up photograph of a person's hand reaching out from the top left corner towards the center. The hand is positioned just above a body of water, with the sun setting in the background, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. The water's surface is calm, reflecting the hand and the sunset. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

I believe
in

Jesus Christ...

...human and divine

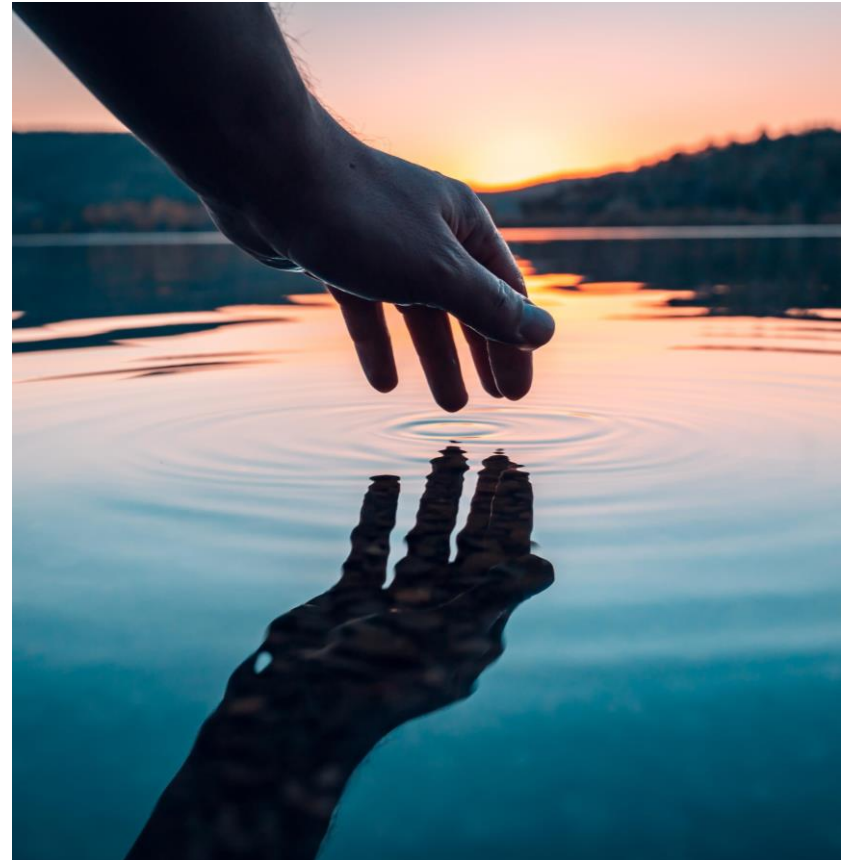
John 1:1-18 The Word / *Logos*

¹In the beginning was the Word [*logos*], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ...

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only [the *monogenēs* – the ‘only generated’], who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ...

¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

NIV / NET Bible





Worship of Christ

- 170 AD: anti-Christian, Roman philosopher Celsus:

“Now if Christians worshipped one God they might have reason on their side. But as a matter of fact **they worship a man who appeared only recently**. They do not consider what they are doing a breach of monotheism; rather, they think it perfectly consistent to worship the great God and to worship his servant as God.”

Apostles' Creed (2nd century AD)

...

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, ...

Apostles' Creed (2nd century AD)

*just
pretending
to be
human
(spiritual
being)*

**fully
human**

**Jesus
Christ**

**unique
divine (?)
son of God (?)
Word/logos (?)**

*not
divine,
but
adopted
by God
(special
human
being)*

Nicene Creed (325, 381 AD)

...

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he **became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; ...

Nicene Creed (325, 381 AD)

fully
human

Jesus
Christ

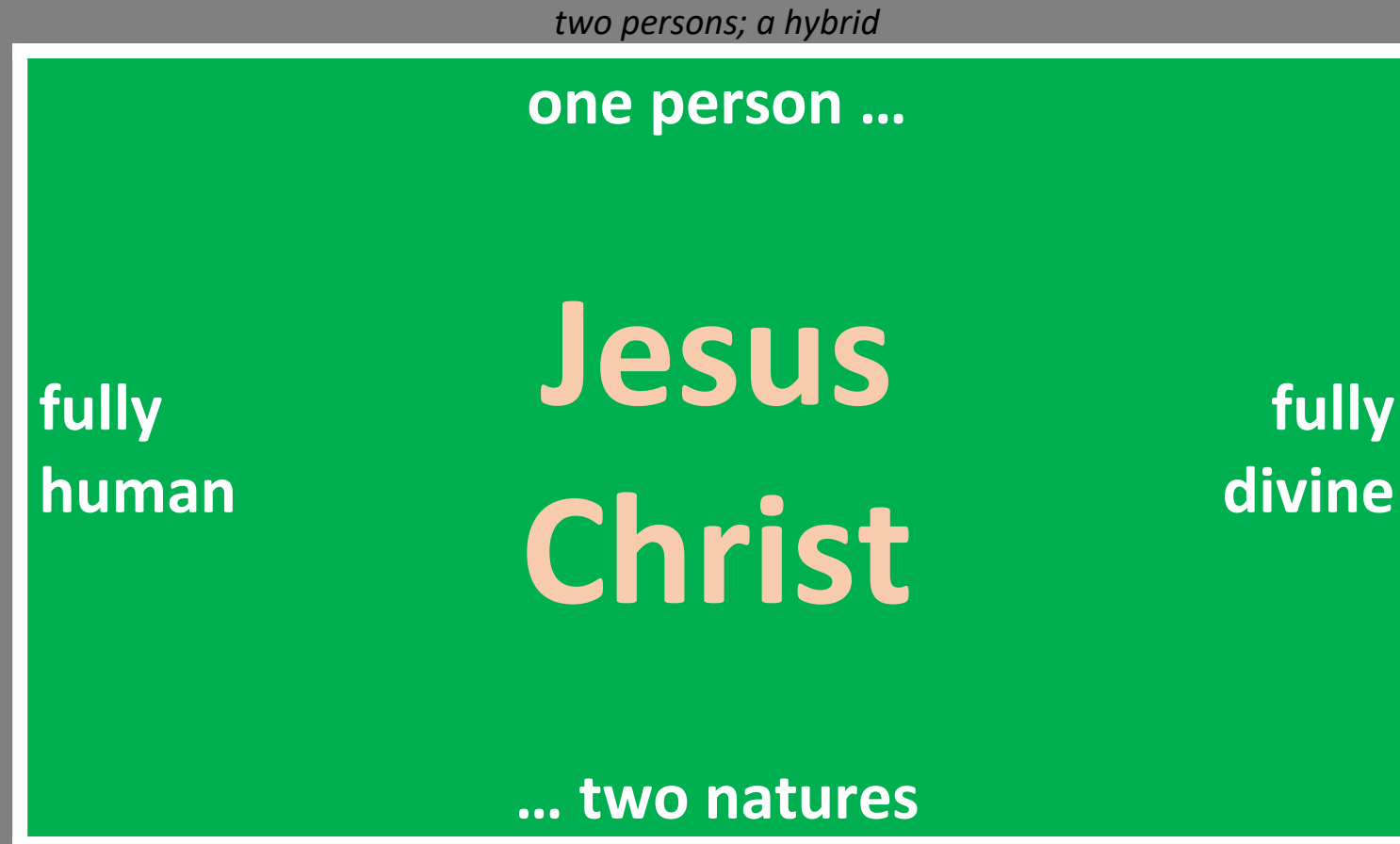
fully
divine

*a
lesser
divine
being*

Chalcedonian Definition (451 AD)

- ... the one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. ... is **perfect both in deity and in humanness; ... is also truly God and truly man ...**
- ... this one and only Christ—Son, Lord, only-begotten—**in two natures; ... both natures concur in one "person"** and in one reality [*hypostasis*].

Chalcedonian Definition (451 AD)



two persons; a hybrid

divided, separated; confused; mingled/changed

Role of Doctrine

“When properly employed and understood, **good Christian doctrine** performs a similar role [to the lines on a sports field]. It **does not inhibit people’s freedom to hold a variety of opinions, to explain matters in a variety of ways, to emphasize different elements of the Christian faith.** But it does tell us what the limits are beyond which you are no longer within the bounds of what the church at large considers to be its faith.”

Justo L. González *A Concise History of Christian Doctrine*

Philippians 2:5-7 – “emptying” (kenosis)

⁵ ... Christ Jesus ...,

⁶ who, though **he existed in the form** [*morphē*]
of God,

did not regard equality with God as something
to be grasped,

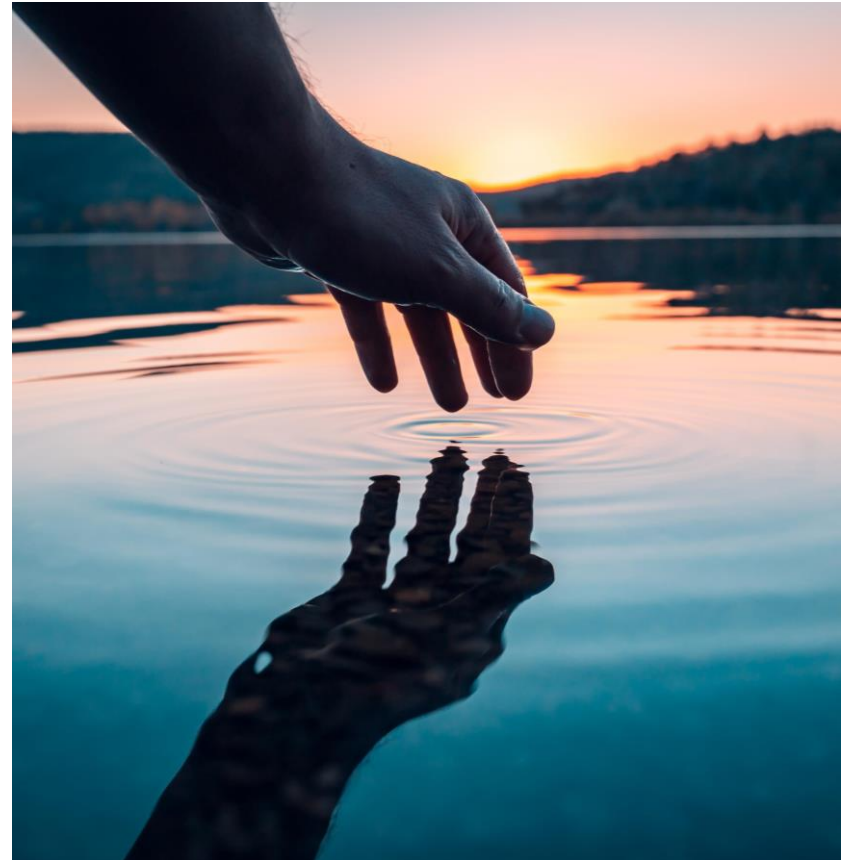
⁷ but **emptied himself**

by **taking on the form** [*morphē*] **of a slave,**

by looking like other men,

and by sharing in human nature.

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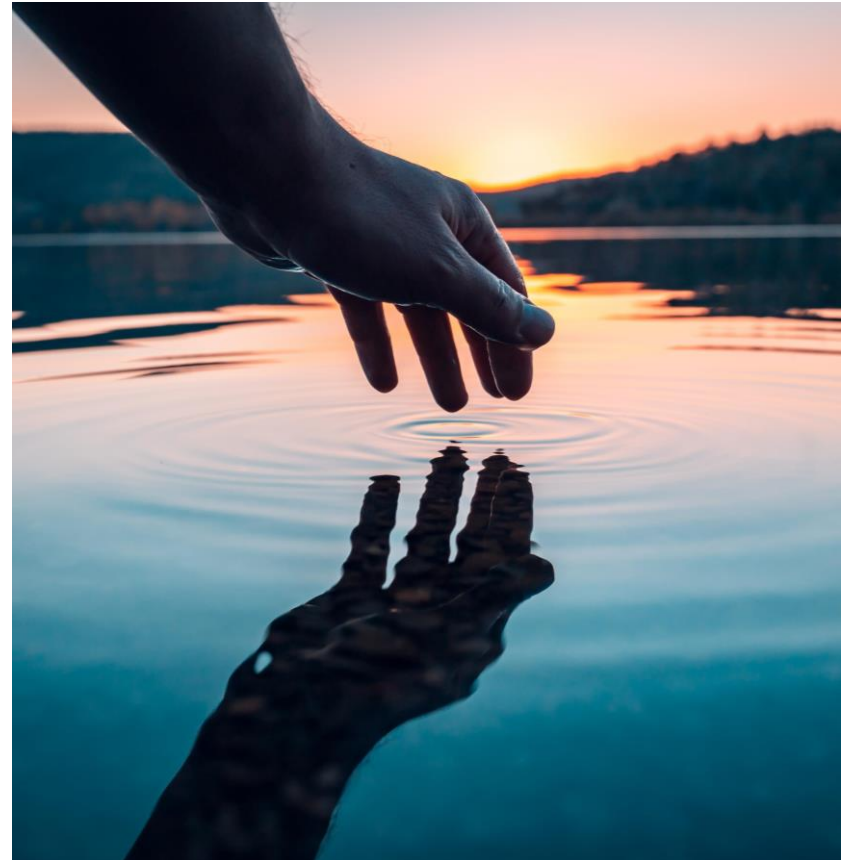


Luke 1:26-37

The incarnation

...³⁰ The angel said to her, ... ³¹ **“You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.”** ...

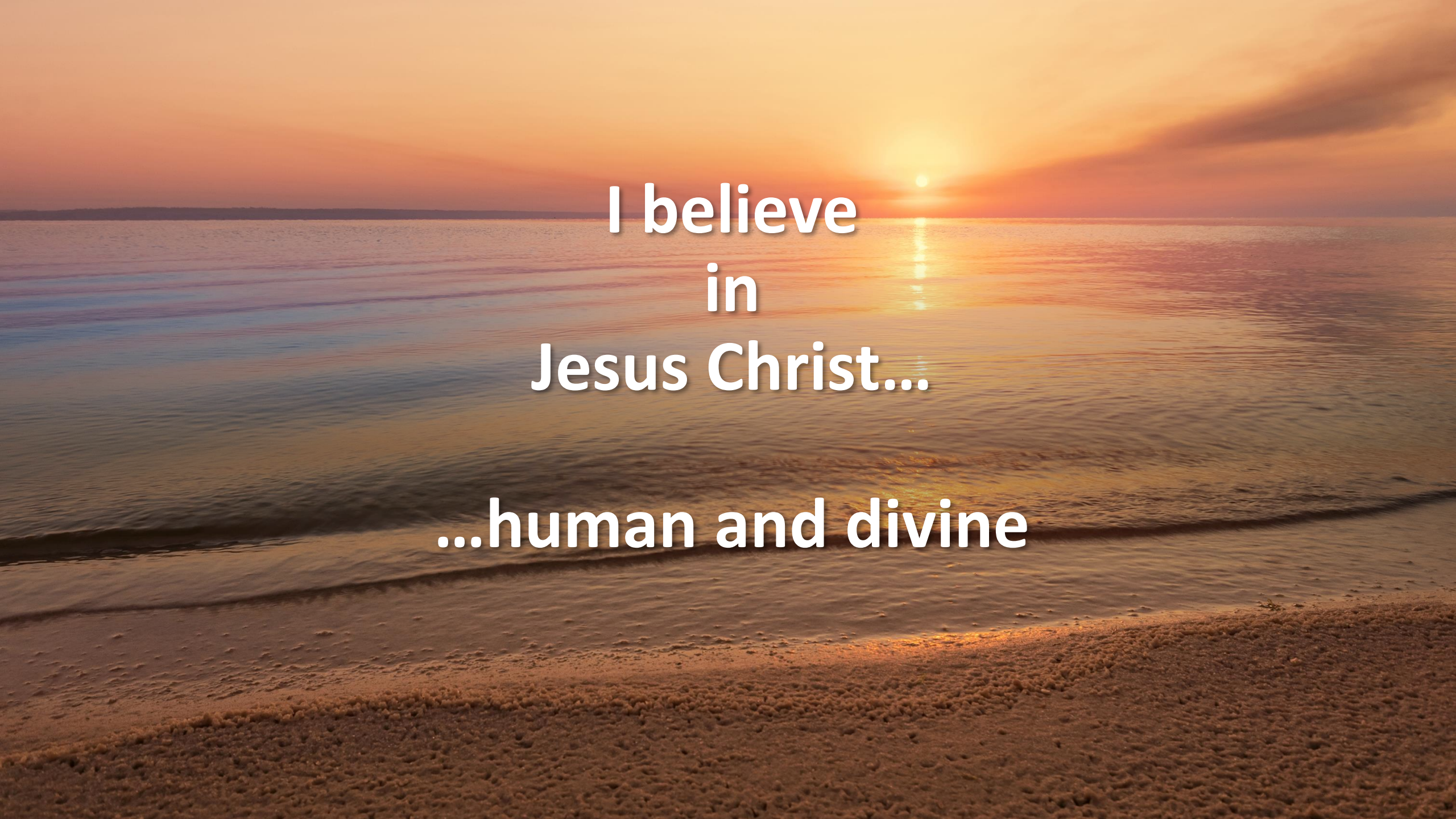
³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I have not been intimate with a man?” ³⁵ The angel replied, **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.** Therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God.”





humanity

divinity



**I believe
in
Jesus Christ...**

...human and divine