

Christ's Use Of Divine Attributes

Why Christ Displayed His Deity

To Produce Faith in God

To bring glory to the Father which involves bringing men of faith for salvation. How would Christ know when to use His divine attributes? The Father permitted the use at the appropriate time (Mt. 26:42; Jn. 5:30; 7:17; 6:38; 8:26-29; 14:31; 15:10; He. 10:9).

Omnipotence (Power)

Mt. 9:28-29 Two blind men healed because of their faith. And Christ's fame was spread (v. 31). (See Mk. 2:5, 12).

Mt. 11:4 What Christ does prove to John the Baptist that Jesus is the Messiah.

Mk. 5:13, 19-20 The demoniac of Gadara healed which resulted in faith.

Lk. 7:11-17 The widow's son at Nain raised to life, and the people glorified God as a result (v. 16).

Jn. 2:11 The water turned into wine created faith in the disciples.

Jn. 7:31 Many believed in Christ because of the miracles He did.

Jn. 20:30-31 The signs are for the purpose of creating belief in the beholders.

See Mk. 5:35-43 (esp. 36, 42); Mk. 11:14, 20-26 (esp. 22); Jn. 2:33; Jn. 3:1-21 (esp. 2); 10:25, 38; Jn. 11 (esp. 40, 45).

Omniscience (Knowledge)

Mt. 12:25 Jesus knew the thoughts of the Pharisees who claimed Christ's power to be from Beelzebub when He healed the blind and dumb demonic (see Lk. 9:14-26 (esp. 17)).

Lk. 6:6-11 (esp. 8) "He knew their thoughts" concerning the Sabbath.

Jn. 4:17-18, 39-42 (esp. 39) He knew the Samaritan women.

See Mk. 2:8; Lk. 9:46-50 (esp. 47); Jn. 1:47, 50; 2:24-24; 14:29; 18:4.

Jn. 20:30-31 ⁴³⁰ "And many others sign truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: ³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

Why Christ Did Not Display His Deity

To Relate Fully to the Sufferings of Mankind

Not to Make His Earthly Life Easier

If Christ would have known a problem was coming, He could have avoided it. But He chose to live the life as a man, with all its trials, joys, and suffering. (See Ro. 8:34; He. 4:15; 7:25; 9:24; etc).

Lk. 2:40, 46, 52 He grew in wisdom (learned) and grew in physical stature.

Mt. 4:1-11; Lk. 4:1-13; He. 4:14-15 He was tempted.

Mt. 26:37-38; Lk. 22:44; He. 13:12; 1Pe. 3:18 He sorrowed.

Mt. 4:2; Mk. 11:12; Lk. 4:2 He hungered.

Jn. 4:7; 19:28 He thirsted.

Jn. 4:6 He was wearied.

Lk. 8:23 He needed sleep.

Lk. 9:58 He was poor.

Jn. 1:14; Ro. 8:3; Ga. 4:4; 1Ti. 3:16; 1Jn. 4:2 He had a real physical body.

Christ was in Complete Submission to the Father

The Father permitted Christ to use His divine attributes especially when it would bring men of faith in God. Christ was a true servant of man (Mt. 20:28; Lk. 22:27; Jn. 13:4-5; Ph. 2:7) but, also He was a servant to do the Father's will (Mt. 26:42; Jn. 5:30; 7:17; 8:26-29; 14:31; 15:10; He. 10:9). Christ gave up the independent use of His divine attributes, thus He was dependent upon the Father for the appropriate time to use them. There seem to be a communication in the God-head. God the Father tells God the Son what to say and do, and when to do them.

Hardness of Hearts

Sometimes Christ did not use His divine power because the people already display a hardness-of-heart attitude that would not believe (see Mt. 13:58; Jn. 12:37).

Examples

Mk. 13:32-37 (esp. 32) Christ did not know the time of His own coming again back to the earth.

Mt. 8:5-13 (esp. 10) He was amazed at the Centurion's faith.

Mk. 11:12-14 (esp. 13) Christ came to the fig tree hoping to find figs but there was none (See Mt. 21:19)

At these times the Father did not permit Jesus to use His omniscience. Jesus never ceased to have His divine attributes, when He became a man, He just chose (giving up His independent use) to use them only as the Father's will granted permission.