

His Perfect, Precious Person

This series was taught at North Christian Church during August of 2023. To watch or listen, please visit www.nccdighton.org

Where do we begin?? :)

Originally, I was going to title these lessons "The Spotless One", emphasizing Jesus' perfect purity, leading to His worthy sacrifice for sin.

While that idea will still come up in this series, we're not only going to focus on **Jesus' perfection as a human being**, but also **the precious nature of His Person**.

We'll count on the Spirit to lead us where He may.

Thus the title of this lesson: *His Perfect, Precious Person*

Remember, ALL the reading and studying we do to learn the Word of God is always pointing to HIM in some way.

The whole Gospel is about Jesus Christ, Himself.

Here's a friendly reminder of why we do what we do, and why we read the Word of God daily!

Jn 5:39AMP *You search and investigate and pore over the Scriptures diligently, because you suppose and trust that you have*

eternal life through them. And these [very Scriptures] testify about Me!

We should clearly keep His very Person in our focus at all times!!

We could spend many years learning about the Perfect Person of Jesus Christ, as many have throughout Church history.

The Bible provides a seemingly endless amount of information on who Jesus is and His personal characteristics as the God-man.

But we will be in survey mode for this short series, as time is limited while our dear Pastor is away.

We'll begin with **the Perfection of the Lord as a man;** accomplishing something no other man ever has or ever could.

And we'll then blend into learning about **His precious nature as a Person...**

... Someone who's so precious, that **when we see why He's called that in Holy Scripture,** we will simply want to treasure Him in our hearts every day, as the One who is truly our Best Friend.

And let's also set the stage this way, with something that reflects His precious Person:

Being God as well, Jesus **put aside** His deity as He fulfilled His mission as a human being, and showed us what it's like to live a godly life as a human being.

Don't forget, He became 100% human, for our sakes.

Php 2:4 *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Php 2:5) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (Php 2:6) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,*

(Php 2:7) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (Php 2:8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Php 2:9) Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

(Php 2:10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (Php 2:11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is why He is our Great Example; our Prototype, even.

He accomplished all this goodness, giving Himself up for us,
FROM HIS HUMANITY.

He became truly human, and we can truly relate to Him
because of this!!

He was tempted in every area, as we will see, FROM HIS
HUMANITY!

He resisted sinning even one time, FROM HIS HUMANITY.

How do we know He did all this FROM HIS HUMANITY??

Php 2 just told us that quite clearly.... He left heaven and
became truly human, putting aside His deity.

And so, we are inspired by this man, albeit He is the God-
man,...

... we are inspired by this man who accomplished all this
goodness as a human being, ... as one of us!

And He even calls us *brethren*, as Holy Scripture says,
because He truly did become human, and **become victorious
as a human being**, for our sakes and to the glory of God the
Father.

Now, let's discuss the righteous requirements of God the Father....

Mt 5:48 *You therefore must be perfect, as **your heavenly Father is perfect.***

We were given this command, even, which none of us can accomplish on his own...

... but only through Jesus we can fulfill it, **but notice this is necessary because God the Father is PERFECT.**

He is **perfectly** holy and pure, thus requiring **purity** for us to go to Him.

Remember in the OT, the Jews were called to sacrifice **spotless animals** to the Lord.

This was a **temporary covering for man's sins**, and also a picture of the ultimate sacrifice to be accomplished by the ultimate Person one day, once for all.

The promised Messiah had to be perfect, spotless, without fault; thus satisfying the holy, righteous demands for God's judgment of sin.

Let's start with the OT picture given to us, given to the Jews as God's people, in preparation for the final "lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world".

Lev 22:17-22 *And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 18 "Speak to Aaron and his sons and all the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of the house of Israel or of the sojourners in Israel presents a burnt offering as his offering, for any of their vows or freewill offerings that they offer to the Lord, 19 **if it is to be accepted for you it shall be a male without blemish**, of the bulls or the sheep or the goats.*

*20 **You shall not offer anything that has a blemish**, for it will not be acceptable for you. 21 And when anyone offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the Lord to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering from the herd or from the flock, **to be accepted it must be perfect; there shall be no blemish in it.** 22 Animals blind or disabled or mutilated or having a discharge or an itch or scabs you shall not offer to the Lord or give them to the Lord as a food offering on the altar.*

This reveals to us God's perfect standards, and how they must be met. They are **REQUIRED**.

Deu 17:1 *"You shall not sacrifice to the Lord your God an ox or a sheep in which is a blemish, any defect whatever, for that is an **abomination** to the Lord your God.*

Can you imagine offering something damaged or scarred to the Lord, to the One who gave you your life itself? And gave you the animals themselves?

Not only does He deserve our best, in gratitude, but it would also be an abomination to His Holiness.

And this was also to picture the need to satisfy God's perfect righteousness.

Let's now jump forward to a passage in 1Jn., about the need to satisfy God's perfect righteousness.

1 Jn 4:9-10 *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins.*

Many of you have heard of the doctrine of Propitiation in the Bible.

This means God's righteous standards had to be **satisfied!**

He will not accept anything other than perfect and pure, being perfect and pure Himself.

The Greek word of propitiation means **atonement...**

... something or someone has to atone for, or make up for, sin.

There must be a real price paid, because God is just.

He always does the right thing; and that includes the righteous need for Him to judge sin.

But because of Christ, our sin has been judged in HIM.

Now, fast forward many centuries from the OT sacrifices...

... to Jesus fulfilling the call of the Messiah to save His people from their sins.

It had to be in the likeness of the flesh (truly human like us), and He had to be a worthy sacrifice.

The apostle Peter had a lot to say about this.

Peter had such a love and reverence for the Lord Jesus, probably not only because He saw Him and walked with Him, but also because after denying Him 3 times, the Lord forgave Him!

And after reading 1&2 Peter, you will see **His awe and reverence** for the Holy One, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the precious Person who sacrificed Himself for our sins!!

1 Pe 1:13-21 *Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (GULP!)*

*17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were **ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not*

with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (do you see it?- the OT sacrifices were a "type" of Jesus Christ coming to be the true and final sacrifice)

*20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, 21 who **through him** are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

Notice the analogy, or typology, from the OT sacrifices that were required.

They were a picture, for many centuries, of the Messiah who was to come to be the Savior of the world.

And remember when Jesus came on the scene in His public ministry...

... what did John the Baptist refer to Him as??

Here's an introduction of sorts to the holiness of the Person of Jesus Christ:

Joh 1:19 *And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"*

Joh 1:20 *He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."*

Joh 1:21 *And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."*

Joh 1:22 So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

Joh 1:23 He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way **of the Lord,**’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

Joh 1:24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)

Joh 1:25 They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

Joh 1:26 John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,

Joh 1:27 even he who comes after me, **the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.**” (what does that tell us about **Jesus?!**)

Joh 1:28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Joh 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!** (what's implied here is that **He's the Lamb without blemish, spotless and blameless, and acceptable to God**)

Joh 1:30 This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’

Joh 1:31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.”

Joh 1:32 And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from

heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

Joh 1:33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

*Joh 1:34 And I have seen and have borne witness that **this is the Son of God.**"*

But notice, John the Baptist first referred to Jesus as *the Lamb of God*; the One they had all been waiting for, to take away the sin of the world.

And again, He was implying something special, here.

How does one take away the sin of the world if He Himself isn't worthy??

How does the Lamb of God qualify unless He is holy and perfect and without blemish??

He doesn't.... so He **MUST** be, or His sacrifice would not be acceptable to God the Father on our behalf.

Hopefully you're getting the full picture in your soul, and this is what the Spirit's going to have us examine in greater detail; **the perfect holiness of Jesus Christ; the spotless Lamb of God.**

Let's stick with some of Peter's discourse as we continue...

1 Pe 1:18 *knowing that you were **ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

1Pe 2:22-24 *He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.*

1 Pe 3:18 *For Christ also suffered once for sins, **the righteous** for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit*

This speaks of Jesus' PERFECT righteousness, pointing again to the fact that He was without sin His entire life.

To Be PERFECTLY Righteous: Think about the fact that Jesus' words, actions, and even the thoughts and intentions of His heart were all pure. He was truly "without sin", in every way!

He never faltered or wavered away from His faith in God the Father, either (which also would have been sin and disqualified Him from being a worthy sacrifice).

His perfection was vital to His sacrifice, and He knew it.

He knew His mission on earth from a very young age, and He also knew He was born not only to die, but **He was also born to live a perfect and sinless life as the Savior of the world.**

He was COMPLETELY RIGHTEOUS!! Chew on that for a minute!

Once again;

To Be PERFECTLY Righteous: Think about the fact that Jesus' words, actions, and even the thoughts and intentions of His heart were all pure. He was truly "without sin", in every way!

He was without stain or blemish, even to His precious soul.

He was well-pleasing to the Father, always, at every moment of His earthly life!

It's just a mind-blow when you consider the trials of day-to-day life...

... that Jesus never lost His temper and sinned, that Jesus never fell into the temptations of things like lust or greed...

... that Jesus never even told a little white lie (that's one reason some people hated Him so much, He wouldn't give in to people, making any false statements at all, and telling them what they wanted to hear!)

When you stop and consider that He lived for 33 years in this defiled, crooked world with wretched, persuasive sinners all around Him...

... and the fact that He was also tempted by the devil for 40 straight days in the desert,... (see **Mt 4**)

... tempted in every way imaginable (40 days is a long time!), and He never sinned.... He never gave in to the temptations.

It's something so astonishing, really, beyond our full appreciation.

But He fulfilled His calling out of love for God the Father and out of love for us.

We sometimes barely manage to resist sin, out of love for God or for others...

... and we know it's **through love and because of love** we keep His commands.

But to do so perfectly, and not EVER give in, even when we're tired or in pain???! (Impossible for us)

This is the perfect, precious Person of Jesus that we're treasuring in this series.

HE is beyond our imaginations... not only in His sinlessness, but a Person of that kind of love that motivates Him to resist all temptations to save us all.

And remember, He truly did become a human being, just like each one of us, "yet without sin", as Holy Scripture reveals.

We'll now get into some of Holy Scripture that describes His wonderful purity; His sinlessness, to be exact.

To Be PERFECTLY Righteous: Jesus was perfect in the sense that He was completely without sin, and therefore "unstained" as a human being!!! Is 53:9, Mt 27:4, Lk 23:41,47, Jn 8:46, 2Co 5:21, Heb 2:17,4:15, 7:26-28, 1Pe 2:22, 1Jn 2:1-2,3:5

*Is 53:9 And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.*

There's part of the famous prophecy about the Messiah and the death He would suffer for us.

Now, what's also very encouraging is how God even uses unbelievers to His glory.... to declare His righteousness, even!

The following unbelievers could not help but admit that Jesus was an innocent and pure Person!

Mt 27:3-4 *Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying **innocent blood**." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself.*

Lk 23:39-43 *One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; **but this man has done nothing wrong**." 42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."*

Lk 23:47

*Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "**Certainly this man was innocent!**"*

Who knows, maybe at this very moment this Roman soldier became born again and saved. The same with the thief on the cross.

They could not deny the grace that he had just witnessed!

And then, the Lord Himself didn't hold back from declaring His innocence and worthiness...

Jn 8:46 *Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?*

2 Co 5:21 *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Again;

To Be PERFECTLY Righteous: Jesus was perfect in the sense that He was completely without sin, and therefore "unstained" as a human being!!! Is 53:9, Mt 27:4, Lk 23:41,47, Jn 8:46, 2Co 5:21, Heb 2:17,4:15, 7:26-28, 1Pe 2:22, 1Jn 2:1-2,3:5

Heb 2:14-18 *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, **to make propitiation for the sins of the people.** 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

Heb 4:14-16 *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, **but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.** 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Heb 7:26-28 *For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, **holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners,** and exalted above the heavens. 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. 28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, **appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.***

1 Pe 2:22 *He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.*

1 Jn 2:1-2 *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, **Jesus Christ the righteous.** 2 He is the **propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

1 Jn 3:5 *You know that he appeared to take away sins, and **in him there is no sin.***