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A THEOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS FOR CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITY

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ABSTRACT

The doctrine of the humanity of Christ has been a major debate in Christendom. There are people who believe that Christ did not really possess human nature because of the sinless and perfect lifestyle he lived as a man. This research is a theological examination of the humanity of Christ and its implications for the contemporary Christianity. The research employed the use of secondary sources as the major materials for the information that was used for the research. The research revealed that there are different teachings that denied the full humanity of Christ, but the Christian traditions and the Bible firmly teach that Christ possessed in full true humanity. The Bible portrays Christ as a person who lived and manifested all the attributes common to man except that he never sinned. That Jesus was fully human made it possible for him to die for the sins of the world, restored man into union and fellowship with God and become perfect example for humankind. These in turn place on the contemporary Christians in general and Christian leaders in particular the demand to live like Christ in this life since they are his representatives. The project concluded with the recommendations that: The teaching on the importance of the humanity of Christ for salvation and Christian living should be taken serious by the Church. The church should take full advantage of all avenues such as Christmas and Easter celebrations to educate her members on the humanity of Christ. Denominations that do not already have a course on Christology with emphasis on the humanity of Christ in the curriculum for the theological training of their ministers should do that. Finally, Contemporary Christians should translate the example of Christ into practical Christian living in the society.

5:2 CONCLUSION

The doctrine of the humanity of Jesus is essential to Christian faith and humanity at large. If Christ never came into the world in human form it means that there is no forgiveness of sin for man and the gulf between man and God still remains. However, the coming of Christ into the world in human form enabled Him to carry out the work of redemption through his death on the cross of Calvary thereby bridging the gap between man and God. In His human form also, Jesus is able to reveal God to man, becoming an example of what God expects from man. Likewise, through the humanity of Christ He is able to serve as the High Priest on the behalf of man before God.

Therefore, Christ should be proclaimed as the only mediator between man and God. The Christian community should aspire to grow and live like Jesus lived and proclaim the gospel of the kingdom with love, concern and compassion for the lost souls around them.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Having carried out a study on the Humanity of Christ and its implications for the contemporary Christians, the following recommendations are, therefore, given.

1. The Church should intensify teachings on the importance of the humanity of Christ for salvation and Christian living.
2. Churches should include course on Christology with emphasis on the humanity of Christ in the curriculum for the theological training of their ministers. Those churches that already have that in their curriculum for example the mainline churches should encourage the new generation churches and the Pentecostal churches to include this study as part of the curriculum for the training of their ministers.
3. The churches should use the period of the celebration of the birth of Christ which is referred to as Christmas to educate their members on the correct doctrine of the humanity of Christ and proper way of celebrating Christmas instead of the abuse and crime that has now been associated with Christmas by some people .
4. Further research work should be carried out on the humanity of Christ from the perspective of other New Testament writings such Pauline Epistles and the General Epistles which this work did not cover because of time and space.
5. Contemporary Christians should live lives that emulate the example of love, sacrifice, humility and obedience of Christ in all areas of life.