

Belgic Confession, Article 19, “The Two Natures of Christ”

Scripture Lesson: Hebrews 2:5 – 18

Lesson Aim	To understand three things: First, what the nature of the divine and human union is. Second, that the death and resurrection of Christ did not change this union. Third, that the union of the divine and human occurred for the purpose of our salvation.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Article 19 and Hebrews 2:5-18. Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	When the Son of God became man in the incarnation, how many natures did Jesus have and what are they? In the incarnation, when the Son of God became man, Jesus had two natures that are permanently united and the two natures do not change. What are some Scriptures that speak to the two natures of Christ? John 1:1-2, 14; John 6:62 and Hebrews 1:3 Which Creed speaks to the two natures of Christ? The Chalcedonian Creed (451 AD). This Creed affirms that Christ is one person with two natures: truly God and truly man – fully divine and fully human. What are the Christological heresies that the Chalcedonian Creed refutes? <u>Eutychianism</u>: Taught that Christ possessed <u>only one nature</u> and that the two natures were blended. <u>Nestorianism</u>: Held that the two natures of Christ were separated. <u>Apollinarianism</u>: Taught that Christ was human but had a divine mind. What happened to the two natures of Christ when Christ died and was raised from the dead? The two natures remained united and did not change their properties. Even when Jesus’ body was in the grave and his soul was in heaven, the divine nature was still united to the human nature. After Jesus was raised and appeared to his disciples and suddenly appeared and disappeared, he had a true human body with limitations. Jesus proves his humanity after the resurrection by eating real food.
Bible Reading	2 Samuel 4-10 (covering the great Bible stories)