

### **Faith Matters # 13 – Jesus: Man and/or God? – May 28**

He knew I was a minister, so he came right out and said it, “As a man of science”, he said, “I can’t see how your Jesus can be both a man and God. He’s either one or the other, but not both. As a man, he could be an outstanding teacher, and maybe even a healer; as God, he could not die on a cross,” he said.

I guess he thought I was changing the topic when I asked my science friend about light. I said, “It behaves like a wave sometimes, and at other times, like particles – photons, I think you scientists call them. So which is it? Is light wave or particle. Surely it can’t be both.”

It didn’t take him long to realize that since light is both, sometimes acting like waves and sometimes like particles, then science and Christian faith share similar truths. Both light and Jesus, the Light of the world, each have two forms. Yes, Jesus was a man who could die, and later, be raised to be God-with-us, Emmanuel.

In his letter to new Christians, Paul wrote beautifully about the two forms of Jesus. “Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God... emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness... he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death” (Phil. 2:7f).

So we realize that he was a man, a human being who, like us, can die. But it doesn’t end there. Paul goes on to explain, “God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus... every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father” (vss. 9-11).

Paul’s words are powerful from a man who had tried to eliminate followers of Jesus – that is, until he encountered the resurrected Jesus himself. Meeting Jesus who **was** a man and **is** God-with-us transformed Paul. Before his birth in Bethlehem, he had been the eternal Son; after his resurrection and ascension, he once again was the second person of the Trinity.

I wonder if, finding Jesus to be both a man and God-with-us transformed my science friend. I wonder how it transforms you.

(by Rev. Willard Pottinger – Erskine Presbyterian Church, Hamilton)