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## **Gregory of Nazianzus on Humanity's Adoption**

We're sometimes asked "Are you sure the adoption of humanity is the gospel? I've never heard it before." That's why we like to bring in the thoughts of various theologians from throughout history to add to our understanding of the gospel.

In this text from the 4th century theologian Gregory of Nazianzus, he talks about how human nature has been joined to the Divine life because Jesus is the Son of God living forever as a human being.

He [Jesus] ever lives to make intercession for us. O, how beautiful and mystical and kind. For to intercede does not imply to seek for vengeance, as is most men's way (for in that there would be something of humiliation), but it is to plead for us by reason of His Mediatorship, just as the Spirit also is said to make intercession for us. For there is One God, and One Mediator between God and humanity, the human being Christ Jesus. For He still pleads even now as a human being for my salvation; for He continues to wear the Body which He assumed, until He make me God by the power of His Incarnation; *Oration 29, On the Son*, chap. 14

Obviously, when Gregory says "make me God" he doesn't mean that he will become God as God is God. He means what Peter meant when he said we have become partakers of the Divine nature (2 Peter 1:4.) He means that, in Jesus, humanity and the Trinity are permanently and forever united. The Son has become what we are (human) so that we are now joined to his Divine life with the Father and the Holy Spirit.