The issue of whether Christ the Son of God was a human being of flesh and blood is crucial to how we view the cross of Christ.

If Christ God's Son was not flesh and blood, then it was not Christ, God's Son, who was dying and shedding his blood on the cross!

John makes it clear that "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son, cleanses us from all sin" (1Jn 1:7). Christ "came not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood" (1Jn 5:6).

The Son of God, whom God acknowledged at his baptism, is the same one who died on the cross and shed his blood for our sins.

The Flesh is Not Evil

The reason people would deny that Jesus Christ came in the flesh, is that they believe the flesh to be corrupt. The idea that flesh is evil has serious ramifications.

Was the flesh and blood of Jesus evil?

If the flesh is evil, then the holy Son of God could not have come in the flesh or shed his blood as a propitiation for sin, because the blood from his flesh would be evil.

But his blood "cleanses us from all sin" (1Jn 1:7). So the flesh cannot be evil.

If the flesh is evil, how could Jesus be sinless? Were the flesh evil of itself, then no one could live in the flesh without sin.

Jesus, therefore, must have been a sinner by the very nature of his flesh, so he cannot be the sinless Christ, the Son of God, Saviour of the world!

That is why the antichrist teaches that Jesus is not the Christ (1Jn 2:22).

If the flesh is evil, how can we have victory over sin? If the flesh is evil, then we cannot conquer the practice of sin while we remain in our flesh. John, however, teaches us that, whilst we must acknowledge that we have sin (1Jn 1:8-10), we must also acknowledge that we ought not to sin, and that we can overcome sin through Jesus Christ (1Jn 2:1-2,28-29; 3:4-10).

If the flesh is evil, how can we "love not the world"? John's comments about "the lust of the flesh" (1Jn 2:15-17) do not mean that the flesh and its desires are evil of themselves any more than "the world" which God created is evil of itself.

If we love the world instead of the God who created it, then we disobey the very last verse of 1st John. If the flesh were evil of itself, then we couldn't help loving the world and it would be pointless for John to say, "Do not love the world" (1Jn 2:15).