

To put it another way, every time Christ acted, He simply acted according to His nature; i.e., in accordance with His own attributes.

Once again, the scriptures conflict with this answer also. Christ manifested himself many times in terms of His divine attributes.

[5] "Christ emptied himself of the independent exercise of His divine attributes"

This answer holds that Christ kept His divine attributes, and even exercised them at times, but only by permission of the Father. That is, this answer proposes that Christ surrendered the use of His divine attributes to the Father, and thus used them only when it was the Father's will, and by the Father's permission.

One problem with this answer is the kinds of questions it raises. How can Christ "surrender" His omniscience (for example) to the Father? The answer, "Don't ask me how He did it; He just did it!" is not really an answer, but simply an unsupported assertion. To "surrender" His omniscience would have meant to make himself limited in knowledge; to blot out most of His infinite knowledge by "handing it over" to the Father (in some inscrutable fashion). In effect, it would have meant making himself the object of His own power! The infinite God would have needed to overcome His infinite knowledge! The same objection may be made to the idea of Christ's surrender of His omnipotence to the Father. In effect, it would have meant that the infinitely powerful God would have needed to overcome His infinite power, in order to surrender it to the Father. The same could be said in regard to each of the divine attributes.

Once again it may be pointed out that if Christ kept His divine attributes (remained God), and remained active, then He acted constantly in accordance with those attributes (i.e., in accord with His nature). And it may further be pointed out that whatever Christ did in respect of His divine nature, He did in perfect accord with the Father and the Spirit (even though the Father and the Spirit did not do everything the son did), even while He retained freedom of action.

Actually this answer does not apply to Christ's divine nature at all, but to His human nature. In respect of His human nature, Christ surrendered independent exercise of His human attributes to the will of God. He became totally subject to the will of His Father. This actually seems to be the intention of and motivation for this answer. Unfortunately this intention is incorrectly connected with the "emptying" of the Son of God at His incarnation.

[6] "Christ emptied himself of the manifestation of His divine attributes"

This answer retains Christ's divine attributes and the independent exercise of them; but takes a more humble stance, asserting only that Christ, during His earthly ministry, chose not to manifest His deity in terms of His divine attributes, but to live and walk purely in His human nature, the meanwhile veiling His deity from human sight.

The chief objection to this answer is that the scriptures do not support it in the comprehensive sense in which it is stated. There is certainly a partial veiling of His deity, and a partial restraint upon the manifestation of His divine attributes. But this answer, as it stands, cannot be sustained. On a number of occasions Christ manifested His deity during His public ministry.