

Survey of Christian Theology.2 Person of Jesus Christ / Christology



Fide

Presents Christianity's core tenets and doctrines. It seeks to provide an avenue for anyone to learn about Christianity. The classes also serve as a tool for believers to build a strong foundation that helps them bolster their faith. Many have wavered from the foundations of sound doctrine; it is therefore necessary today to be purposeful and diligent in learning the fundamentals of our beliefs and to earnestly contend for our faith.

Logistics & Learning Objectives:

1.



- Learning Objectives. Participants will gain an understanding of:
 - a. Who is Jesus of Nazareth
 - b. The three offices of Christ
 - c. New Testament Christological titles
 - d. The divinity and humanity of Christ
 - e. Historic heresies
- 2. For more information please visit *studioscriptura.com*



Key Sources:



- 1. Anderson, R. Lanier, "Friedrich Nietzsche", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Summer 2017 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = Berkhof, L. 1939, 1941. Systematic Theology, Grand Rapids: WM. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- 2. Berkhof, L. 1939, 1941. Systematic Theology, Grand Rapids: WM. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- 3. Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy. 1978. Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary Archives.
- 4. <u>Erickson, Millard J.</u> 1998. Christian Theology. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.
- 5. Grudem, Wayne, 2020. Systematic Theology, Second Edition: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic
- 6. Hodge, Charles. 1872. Systematic Theology. London and Edinburgh: T. Nelson and Sons.
- 7. Lewis, C. S. 2002. Mere Christianity. New York: HarperCollins.
- 8. Malpas, J., "Donald Davidson", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter 2012 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL: https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2012/entries/davidson/
- 9. McGrath, Alister E. 2011. Christian Theology: An Introduction. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.
- 10. McGrath, Alister E. 2016. Mere Apologetics: How to Help Seekers and Sceptics Find Faith. London: SPCK.
- 11. McQuilkin, Robertson. 2009. Understanding and Applying the Bible. Chicago: Moody Publishers.
- 12. Moreland, J.P. 1987. Scaling the Secular City: A Defense of Christianity. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.
- 13. New King James Version. 1988. Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.
- 14. Reed Smith. 2014. A Guide to Contract Interpretation. Pittsburgh: Reed Smith.
- 15. Sproul, R. C. & various. Ligonier Ministries.com. https://www.ligonier.org/ (accessed January 1, 2020 through December 2021)
- 16. Turner, James. 2014. Philology. Princeton University Press.

The Person of Jesus Christ / Christology - The Incarnation

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, **being in the form of God**, did not **consider it robbery** [something to be used to his own advantage NIV] to be **equal** with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled Himself** and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." Galatians 4:4-5

"But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.' So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, "God with us. [Isaiah 7:14]" Matthew 1:20-23





Walter Smiechewicz 20.3





The Person of Jesus Christ / Christology - The Incarnation (continued)

"The most complete modality of revelation is the incarnation."

"The pinnacle of God's acts is to be found in the life of Jesus. His miracles, death, and resurrection are redemptive history in its most condensed and concentrated form. Here too is revelation as divine speech, for Jesus' message surpassed those of the prophets and apostles. Jesus even dared to place his message over against what was written in the Scriptures, not as contradicting, but as going beyond or fulfilling them (Matt. 5:17). When the prophets spoke, they were bearers of a message from and about God. When Jesus spoke, **it was God himself speaking**. There was a directness about his message."

"... if revelation is regarded as the presentation of a person (and yes, it is exactly that because of the incarnation), then faith will correspondingly be viewed as an act of personal trust or commitment. According to this latter view, theology is not a revealed set of doctrines. It is the church's attempt to express what it has found in God's revelation of Himself."

Erickson, Millard. "Christian Theology." Baker Publishing Group, 2013-07-05. Apple Books.



The significance of Jesus Christ is that through His crucifixion and resurrection He provides forgiveness for our sins - and He brought Christianity and the Christian Church into being!

The Significance of Jesus Christ

Reveals God

Bearer of Salvation

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. For the law was given through Moses. but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father. He has declared Him." John 1:1-5. 14-18

"Surely He has borne our grief And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:4-6

"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:6-8

Example of the Christian

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith," Hebrews 12:1-2a

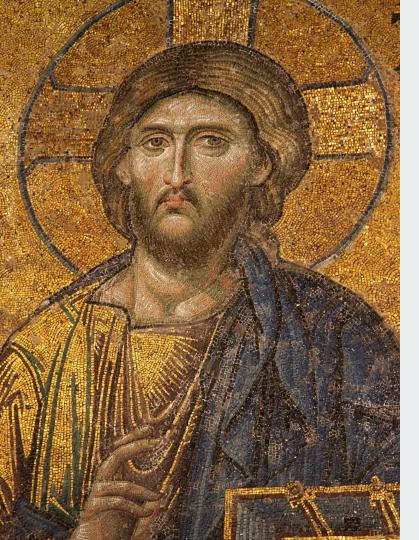
"Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:13-16







The New Testament Christological *Titles*

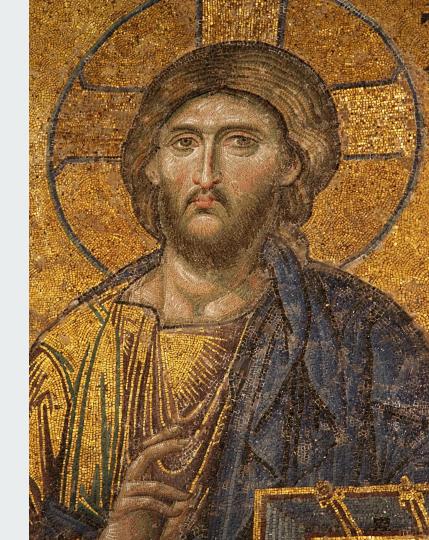


Teacher

- 1. A teacher, an instructor acknowledged for mastery in their field of learning.
- 2. "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren." Matthew 23:8
- 3. "But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?'" Mark 4;38
- 4. "So they asked Him, saying, "Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?" Luke 2:17
- 5. "Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him, 'Rabboni!' (which is to say, Teacher)." John 20:16

Messiah / Christ

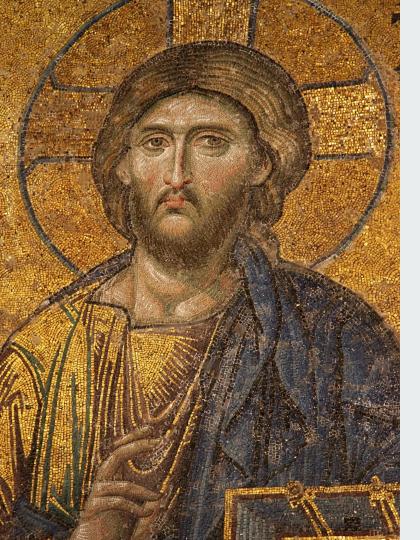
- 1. Contrary to what some think, "Christ" is not a surname for Jesus, it is one of His titles.
- 2. The title "Messiah" can only be fully grasped by understanding the promises of the Old Testament.
- 3. The root meaning is one who has been anointed.
- 4. The promise of a Messiah took on a new level of expectation during the Roman empire.
- 5. Jesus never regarded or presented His messiahship in a political form.
- 6. "The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."" John 4:25-26
- 7. "He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.'" Matthew 16:15-17



Messiah / Christ (continued)

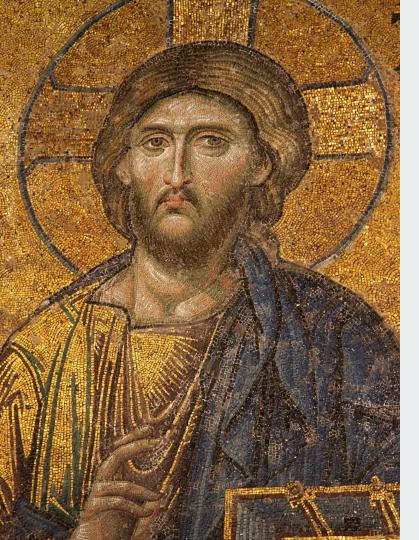
8. "So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because **He has anointed Me** To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.' Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'" Luke 4:16-21

Mosaic of Jesus the Christ at Hagia Sofia



Miracle Worker

- "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." John 20:30-31
- 2. "God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? The Son, made lower than angels. For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet." Hebrews 2:4-8



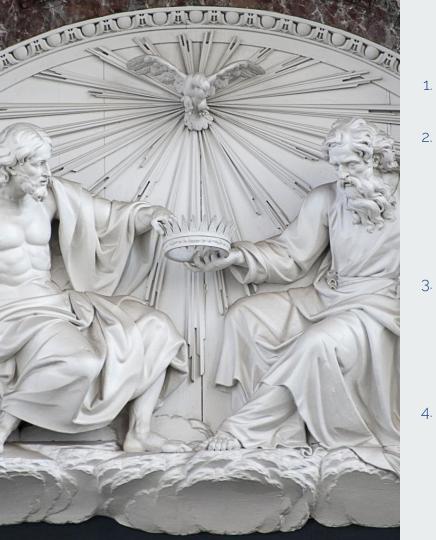
Miracle Worker (continued)

- 3. "'And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' 'Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man **attested** by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know - Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.'" Acts 2:21-23
- 4. "Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him." Luke 23:8

Son of God

- 1. "And we know that the *"Son of God"* has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life." 1 John 5:20
- 2. "For God so loved the world that He gave His *only begotten Son*, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16
- 3. Only-begotten is often used in relation to the Sonship of Jesus. The term has the meaning of "pertaining to being the only one of its kind within a specific relationship" and "pertaining to being the only one of its kind or class, unique in kind" (Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature)
- 4. In the humility of Jesus' earthly ministry, He rarely refers to Himself as the Son of God.





Son of Man

- "Son of Man" is the natural counterpart to Son of God. "Son of God" reveals Jesus' divinity and "Son of Man" reveals His humanity.
- "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the *Son* of *Man*, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7:13-14
- This passage in Daniel is an eschatalogical (end times) passage.
 Earlier in Daniel, the prophet speaks of the "books being opened", the judgement, the Ancient of Days, and the new kingdom coming. This is all in the context of Daniel's reference to this One as the "Son of Man" who receives "dominion and glory and a kingdom",
- Interestingly one of Jesus' favorite ways of referring to Himself was as the "Son of Man". The Jews hearing Him would have quickly referred back in their mind to the passage in Daniel. They would have known exactly that Jesus meant - that He was the coming Messiah.

Lord

- 1. This is one of the most common ways that people who met Jesus referred to Him during His earthly ministry. The New Testament is replete with references of those who interacted with Jesus calling Him "Lord".
- 2. "He said to them, 'How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool?' 'If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?' And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore." Matthew 22:43-46
- 3. The passage above (see #2) takes place during Jesus' earthly ministry and provides insight to His Lordship. In the quoted passage (Psalm 110:1), David is announcing the Messiah's reign. Jesus calls the attention of His listeners back to this passage and shows them that the Son of David will also be the *Lord*, the coming Messiah. And His listeners realized that Jesus was the Lord, the coming Messiah, and the Son of Man.



Lord (continued)

- 4. "Lord" is from the Greek term *kyrios* and has powerful theological impact as it is used in the Septuagint to translate the *Tetragrammaton*, which is the Hebrew characters that represent the sacred name of God.
- 5. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:10-11
- 6. "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath. He shall say, 'Surely in the Lord I have righteousness and strength. To Him men shall come, And all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him." Isaiah 45:22-24
- 7. The relationship of the passage in Philippians to the original statement in Isaiah is a critical declaration of our Christian faith where Paul ascribes all Lordship to Jesus.



Savior

- 1. The fundamental theme of the New Testament is that Jesus is the crucified and risen Savior to offer salvation to all people of every nation.
- 2. "I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11
- 3. The Old Testament is quite clear that only God can save His people from their sin: "Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the Lord? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me. Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:21-22
- 5. "His Son ... who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high," Hebrews 1:2-3

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12



"When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven you.' And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 'Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Mark 2:5-7

God

- 1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1
- 2. "And Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:28-29
- "But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom." Hebrews 1:8
- 4. "Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen." Romans 9:4b
- 5. "Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'"? John 14:9
- 6. "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." Colossians 2:9

The above verses are a significant affirmation of the New Testament's teaching of Jesus' divinity.

Picture is of the Transfiguration of the Lord, from St. Mark's Church in Florence





The Person of Jesus Christ / Christology

In speaking of Jesus of Nazareth, St Paul proclaimed:

"The kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence." Colossians 1:13-18

Stained glass is of the Transfiguration of Jesus







The Threefold Office of Christ

The doctrine of the three offices of Christ holds that in Jesus' earthly ministry He accomplished three functions, or held three offices.

"The true Christ, divinely inspired and heavenly Word, who is the only high priest of all, and the only King of every creature, and the Father's only supreme prophet of prophets." Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea about 314 AD.

Prophet

As the eternal *logos*, Jesus' words are the message of God.

Priest

As Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek, Jesus not only brings the sacrifice to God, He *is* the sacrifice.

King

Jesus reigns over the Church and will come again as King of Kings, to which every knee will bow.





John 1:1-18



"1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God**. 2 **He was in the beginning with God**. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 **In Him was life,** and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the **darkness did not comprehend it.**

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 **But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God,** to those who believe in His name: 13 who were **born,** not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God.**

14 And the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the **only begotten of the Father,** full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' "

16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him.*"

John I is one of the most important passages in the New Testament on who Jesus is and what His mission is/was.







Christ's Humanity & Divinity

One of the topics that has regularly risen throughout history is the defense, from the Scripture, of Jesus' nature as both God and man. Christians believe that Jesus was actually, truly, and fully, both God and man.

The Council of **Nicea** in 325 A.D., provides a repudiation of Arianism (a non-trinitarian view of God) and declared that Christ is *"homoousios* with the Father" (of the same substance as the Father).

Historic note: The Council of Nicea is the 1st of the First Seven Ecumenical Councils of the Christian Church.



The Council of Nicea declared that the Son was true God. coeternal with the Father, and begotten from His same substance. The Council presented that such a doctrine best codified the Scriptural presentation of the Son as well as traditional Christian belief about Him that was handed down from the Apostles. This belief was expressed by the bishops in the Creed of Nicaea, which would form the basis of what has since been known as the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed. During the first several centuries of the Christian Church, many of the Church Fathers weighed in on the person of Christ as Christology was being fully understood. The two pictured are Saints Gregory of Nazianzus and Athanasius of Alexandria.

Athanasius was a Christian theologian and one of the chief defenders of Trinitarianism. He was a noted Egyptian leader of the fourth century. In 325, at the age of 27, Athanasius began his leading role during the First Council of Nicaea and was the first to identify the 27 books of the New Testament that are in use today. He died in 373 A.D. and was about 75 years old.









"And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven you.' And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 'Why does this **Man** speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but **God** alone?'" Mark 2:1-7

The passage (and artwork below - the fresco of Jesus at the healing in the Duomo by Lattanzio Gambara) is of Jesus healing and forgiving the paralytic. This story presents Jesus as both **man** and **God**!



Hypostatic union (ὑπόστασις substance) is a technical term in theology employed in mainstream Christology to describe the union of Christ's humanity and divinity in one hypostasis, or individual existence. Jesus Christ being both *fully* God and *fully* man. He is both perfectly divine and perfectly human, having two complete and distinct natures at once. The Trinitarian orthodoxy states that the second person of the Trinity is vere homo and vere Deus, truly human and truly God.

The Council of **Chalcedon** (near modern-day Istanbul in Turkey) in 451 A.D. provided a declaration of Christ's nature, and that declaration is accepted by all Christians today.

The *Chalcedonian definition* is that Jesus is perfect in both His divinity and His humanity.

He is actually & truly God, and actually & truly man.



Key sections of the declaration, or creed, from the Council of Chalcedon read as follows:

"...we all unanimously teach that our Lord Jesus Christ is to us One and the same Son, the Self-same Perfect in Godhead, the Self-same Perfect in Manhood; truly God and truly Man; ... co-essential with the Father according to the Godhead, the Self-same co-essential with us according to the Manhood; like us in all things, sin apart; before the ages begotten of the Father as to the Godhead, but in the last days, the Self-same, for us and for our salvation (born) of Mary the Virgin ... Two Natures ... the properties of each Nature being preserved, and (both) concurring into One Person and One *Hypostasis*; ... Only-begotten God, Word, Lord, Jesus Christ"



Anyone who gets Christianity wrong (either by accident, by sloppy theology, or on purpose) almost always starts with getting wrong the truth of the divine and human nature of Jesus Christ.

Both Christ's humanity and divinity are critical to the salvation of mankind.

As mediator between God and man for salvation, Jesus had to fully represent both sides of the ledger to fully and effectually offer salvation to us.

More to come on this when we get to our topic of Salvation.



"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber." 2 Peter 2:1-3

Don't Slip Up

- 1. Throughout church history, there have been false doctrines that have and continue to slip back into the church to slip-up Christians.
- 2. A consistent plank that these falsehoods present is that Jesus was a great teacher, endued with the Spirit in a unique way, special to God but was not God and man and was not the Second Person of the Trinity.
- 3. Each time these heresies slip back into Christianity might be known by a different name or be presented slightly differently. But each is not biblical and is not Christianity:
- 4. Adoptionism: this is a non-trinitarian doctrine that believes that Jesus was "adopted" as the Son of God at His baptism. Others believe this "adoption" took place at His ascension.
- 5. Modalism: this is another non-trinitarian doctrine that believes that God is one and manifests himself in three different ways. Sometimes as the Father, other times (during His incarnation) as the Son, and then a third way as the Holy Spirit. Each of these "modes" presents a different aspect of God.

Don't Slip Up (continued)

- 6. Arianism is a non-trinitarian belief that is contrary to the theological truth that Jesus is of the same *essence* as the Father. Arianism believes that the Son of God did not always exist but was begotten within time by the Father and therefore the Second Person of the Trinity did not always co-exist with the Father.
- 7. Portrayal of Jesus in terms of one's current culture: During certain eras, there have been some who have used ideals that are deeply embedded in their culture to present Jesus. E.g., Jesus as a hero, Jesus as a friend, Jesus as a guru, a great teacher, Jesus as a superman.
- 8. The *historical* Jesus: During the Enlightenment certain thinkers posited that the Apostolic Church got Jesus wrong. They, and post-enlightenment liberal theologians, have taken it upon themselves to "redefine" Jesus for us. This is a fairly common approach of English and early American Deists and this thought process is still with us today.

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

"Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" John 14:9

We cannot truly worship Jesus Christ as Lord if we do not have a biblical understanding of who He is.

The world is very active and skilled at dispensing its view of who they believe Jesus is. As Christians, we need to have a solid biblical understanding of who Jesus is and be armed and able to refute the world's deceptions.

Many in the world are ready and willing to accept a watered down version of the Lord Jesus Christ; we must know how to hold firm and present Jesus in the fullness of who He is, as presented in the Scripture.

Don't seek to understand Jesus in terms of your culture, but in terms of the authority of Scripture.

So What



If you are not a Christian, pray now and tell God you are sorry for your sins, confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord and believe in your heart that He died for your sins and that God has raised Him from the dead. Receive Him as your Saviour and Lord!

Pray that the Holy Spirit gives you understanding and a good grasp of this lesson. Talk about this lesson with your friends and family because talking about this lesson with others is one of the best way to remember it.

Copy out in long-hand 3 of the Biblical passages from this evening's lesson.

Develop a list of who you will pray for, and to whom you will share, the truth about Jesus!



