

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

Scripture reveals that the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who always existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and who by His incarnation took upon Himself the form of man and became the God-Man. In the one person of Christ, there are two natures, human and divine, each in its completeness and integrity. They are distinguishable but indivisible, so that He is fully man and fully God. It is this sinless union of the divine and human natures which qualifies Him to be the only sacrificial mediator between God and man.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. It is possible to have the _____. See II Corinthians 11:1-4.
- B. It is _____ to know who Jesus is. *“What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They replied, “He is the son of David.”* (Matthew 22:42 NLT)
1. The Son of God.
 2. The Son of Man.
- C. It is important to know how to _____ to Jesus. *What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?* (Matthew 27:22).
- D. There are three logical conclusions as to who Jesus is:
1. He was a liar. He deceived the people.
 2. He was a lunatic. He really thought he was God.
 3. He was Lord. He really was whom He claimed to be.

Why can't Jesus be just a good man and a good teacher? _____.

II. STATEMENT CONCERNING THE PERSON OF CHRIST

- A. It is possible for Jesus to be 100% God and 100% man since he was born of a human mother, but God was his Father. In fact, Jesus is more fully human than we are because he was without sin.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS

We believe that in the One Person of Jesus Christ, there are two natures, a human and a divine nature, each in its completeness and integrity, and these two natures are organically and indissolubly united, yet so that no third nature is formed thereby. In brief, orthodox doctrine forbids us either to divide the person or to confound the natures.

In the one person of Christ, there are two natures, human and divine, _____, thus qualifying Him to be the sacrificial Mediator between God and man.

- B. Orthodox statements concerning the Person of Jesus Christ are based on the Council of Chalcedon, A.D. 451. They can be summarised in the doctrinal formula **One Person, Two Natures**.

- C. Jesus could not do what He did if He hadn't been who He was. Salvation would not be possible if Jesus was not fully God and fully Man. In His person He was both God and man so that in His work He could bring God and man back together.

IV. OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE PERSON OF CHRIST

- A. The prophets declared that the Messiah would be both the Son of God and the Son of Man.

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6 NLT).

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us'). (Isaiah. 7:14 NLT).

- B. One stream of prophecies declared the Messiah to be the Son of God.

See Micah 5:2; Jeremiah 23:5,6.

- C. Another stream of prophecies declared the Messiah to be the Son of Man.

1. The Son of Adam (Genesis 3:15).
2. The Son of Judah (Genesis 49:10).
3. The Son of David (2 Samuel 7:16)

- D. Some of the prophecies declared Him to be a Ruling Servant (see Isaiah 42:1-4).

- E. Other prophecies declared Him to be a Suffering Servant (see Isaiah 53:4-6).

- F. Some of the early Rabbis solved this dilemma by teaching that there would be two Messiahs: Ben-Judah and Ben-Joseph.

- G. Jesus was the fulfilment of both these streams of prophecy. This was made possible by the virgin birth.

V. THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST

A. The Fact of the Incarnation.

1. "In-carna-tion," means "in the flesh."
2. The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to bear a son who would be the son of God.
You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end! The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. For nothing is impossible with God. (Luke 1:31-33, 35, 37).
Mary responded with faith. *I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true. (Luke 1:38).*
3. The angel Gabriel then announced to Joseph that Mary was to bear the Messiah who would save the people. Joseph also responded in faith and obedience. *Then Joseph . . . did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him (Matthew 1:24)*
4. Jesus spoke of His own origin. *I came out from God (John 16:27).* Jesus never claimed Joseph as His father.
5. The Father claimed that Jesus was His Son.
This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17).
This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him (Matthew 17:5).
6. Paul claimed that Jesus was the Son of God.
God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law (Galatians. 4:4).
God was manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy. 3:16).
Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil (Hebrews. 2:14).

God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh (Romans. 8:3).

Who, being in the form of God . . . took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men (Philippians. 2:6, 7).

7. John claimed that Jesus was the Son of God come in the flesh. *So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. (John 1:14 NLT).*

B. The Necessity of the Incarnation.

1. God had an unchangeable purpose for man.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. Reproduction

2. God made an unchangeable eternal covenant with man. God only relates to other beings in terms of covenant. All of our relationships are to reflect God's covenant making. An animal was sacrificed and the pieces of the animal put on two sides. The parties of the covenant walked between the pieces indicating that if the covenant was broken, they were to become like the animal.

3. God made a _____ covenant with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 2:16-17.

4. Man _____ the covenant. We do not have the right to alter the terms of the covenant. We must accept it or reject it.

5. The penalty for breaking the covenant was _____. Separation from God was the result of the covenant breaking.

6. The death penalty had to be _____

7. Only a man could pay the _____ by dying for man. Human sin could only be paid for with human death. This would have meant the end of the human race. Instead, God instituted a temporary substitute sacrifice system. Animal sacrifices only temporarily covered until the perfect sacrifice of Christ. The faith of Old Testament saints in the sacrifices looked forward to the time

when God Himself would cleanse them from their sins. The nature of the animals sacrificed pointed to Christ. They had to be innocent and without blemish.

8. No one from Adam's race was _____ to pay the penalty. Every man had to die for his own sin and could not die for the sin of another.

9. Only _____ could pay the penalty. God could only pay the penalty based on the attributes of His own nature. If he had changed the rules, He would have destroyed any possibility for a meaningful relationship with man.

10. God could only die for man if He _____.

11. God had to become a sinless man or he himself would have needed a Saviour. So God promised that He would become man and die for man. This promise was stated in many ways in the Old Testament.

"We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together." (Genesis 22:7,8).

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

12. God _____ himself by an agreement. He made a redemptive covenant with man. God gave Adam and Eve coats of skin so they could be clothed in the death of another (Genesis 3:21). The redemptive covenants of God culminated in the cross and the new covenant.

13. God became the God-Man. This _____ birth. This was the answer to Job's questions:

Who can bring purity out of an impure person? No one! (Job 14:4).

What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? (Job 15:14).

How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman? (Job 25:4).

14. In this way God could redeem man.

The Son of God had to become the Son of Man so that the sons of men could become the sons of God. Christ added to His divine nature a human nature so that we could add to our human nature the divine nature.

15. God's purpose for man was then _____. When the plan of redemption is complete, redeemed man will be able to fulfil the purpose for which Adam was created.

C. The Reasons For the Incarnation.

1. To confirm the promise of salvation made to the patriarchs. God made promises to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob about salvation. The incarnation fulfilled those promises.
2. To fulfil the Old Testament: The incarnation fulfilled the law and the prophets, including the redemptive types. *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself* (Luke 24:27).
3. To give us a revelation of the Father:
He that hath seen me hath seen the Father (John 14:9).
Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person (Hebrews 1:3).
4. To destroy the works of the devil: *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil* (1 John 3:8).
5. To live out a perfect sinless human life: Jesus fulfilled the purpose for man. As a result, He can help others overcome.
6. To put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself:
7. To bring into effect the New Covenant. The New Covenant is now the only basis for a relationship with God.
8. To fulfil Old Testament ministries:
 - a. Judge
 - b. Prophet
 - c. Priest
 - d. King
9. To complete the plan of redemption in his second coming. The second coming is the conclusion of what Jesus began in the first coming.

VI. THE DEITY OF CHRIST

A. Divine Attributes.

1. Essential Attributes

a. Eternal

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. (John 1:1, 2 NLT).

Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began (John 17:5 NLT).

There is no record of his father or mother or any of his ancestors—no beginning or end to his life. He remains a priest forever, resembling the Son of God. (Hebrews 7:3 NLT).

b. Self-existent

The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son. (John 5:26 NLT).

c. Pre-existent

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM" (John 8:58 NLT).

d. Omnipotent

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. (Mat. 28:18 NLT).

e. Omniscient

Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee (John 16:30).

f. Omnipresent

For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.
(Matthew 18:20 NLT).

g. Immutable

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever (Heb. 13:8).

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word
(Hebrews 1:3 NIV).

2. Moral Attributes

- a. Perfect _____ (Luke 4:34; Acts 4:30).
- b. Perfect Righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30).
- c. Perfect _____ (John 15:9; 1 John 3:16).
- d. Perfect Faithfulness (Hebrews 2:17).

B. Divine Names

1. Lord (Acts 2:36).
2. I AM (John 8:58).
3. Son of God (Matthew 16:16-17; 17:5).
4. Truth (John 14:6).

C. Divine Works

1. _____ (Colossians 1:15-17).
2. _____ sins (Luke 5:21-25).
3. _____ the dead (John 11:25-26).

D. Divine Worship (Luke 24:51-52; Hebrews 1:6).

VII. The Humanity Of Christ

A. The Humanity of Christ.

1. He had a _____. See Matthew 1:18-2:12; Luke 1:30-38. *But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law* (Galatians 4:4).
2. He had human _____. He had a genealogy traced through David, Abraham and Adam. See Luke 3:23-38; Matthew 1:1-16.
3. He had human _____ and titles.
 - a. Jesus
 - b. Son of David
 - c. Son of Abraham
 - d. Son of Man
4. He had human _____. He had all the ingredients of human nature.
 - a. Spirit (Luke 23:46).
 - b. Soul (Matthew 26:38).
 - c. Body (John 1:14; Hebrews 2:14).
5. He experienced human _____. He was born as a baby and grew in stature and knowledge.

There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favour was on him. (Luke 2:40 NLT).

Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and all the people. (Luke 2:52 NLT).

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered (Hebrews 5:8).

6. He experienced human _____ (sinless infirmities).
 - a. Weariness (John 4:6).
 - b. Hunger (Matthew 4:2).
 - c. Thirst (John 19:28).

- d. He needed sleep (Mat. 8:24).
- e. He was tempted (Hebrews 2:18).
- f. He was limited in knowledge (Mark 11:13).

7. He experienced human _____, Death belongs to man. See Luke 23:46.

8. He experienced human _____. He still possesses a human body. He was able to participate in both the spiritual and physical realm. See Luke 24:39.

B. The _____ of Christ. He had to be sinless in order to save us

1. Theories concerning the Sinlessness of Jesus:

- a. Jesus was sinless but had the potential to sin--He just didn't.
- b. Jesus was sinless and did not have the ability to sin--Sinless Perfection

2. The temptation of Jesus: Jesus was different from Adam in that Adam had the potential to sin while Jesus was unable to sin. If it were not for Jesus' divine nature His human nature could have sinned, but because His divine nature was an integral part of His person, it was impossible for Jesus to have sinned.

- a. Both Adam and Jesus were tempted only from without. Adam sinned and Jesus did not sin.
- b. We are sinful and are therefore tempted from without and from within.
- c. Jesus showed that the way to overcome sin is to combine the divine nature with the human nature. When Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to abide in our human spirit, the potential of being sinless was established. We have now been delivered from the power of sin and can choose whether or not to sin.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever (1 Peter 1:23).

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:4).

d. Jesus was tempted as a means of testing and demonstrating His divine nature and as a means of identifying with humanity.

e. To be approved of by God the Father. *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"* (Matthew 3:17).

f. To display to Satan's hosts a perfect humanity. He has become the pattern Son for the rest of the sons of God.

g. To be a merciful High Priest. To help tempted believers. *Therefore in all things he had to be made like His brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted* (Hebrews 2:17,18). He is now beyond all temptation as all believers will be.

So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. (Hebrews 4: 14-16)

3. The significance of Christ's _____:

- a. His Sinlessness meant that He was not subject to death.
- b. It enabled the Holy Spirit to work through Jesus without any hindrances.
- c. It allowed Him to have unbroken, intimate communion with the Father.
- d. It gave him unrestricted insight into divine things.

C. The Example of Christ.

For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered^[a] for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. (1 Peter 2:21 NLT)

1. In _____

- a. Holy. *Be ye holy; for I am holy* (1 Peter 1:16).
- b. Love. *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge* (Ephesians 1:19).
- c. Humility. *I am meek and lowly in heart* (Matthew 11:28).

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his

divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. (Philippians 2:5-7 NLT)

2. In _____
 - a. The use of words. *The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life (John 6:63).*
 - b. Prayer. *He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared (Hebrews 5:7).*
 - c. His teaching and preaching. *And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes (Matthew 7:28,29).*

3. In _____. Jesus was the perfect example of the right way to live. *For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me (John 6:38).*

VIII. The Mediator-ship Of Christ

Jesus Christ is the "God-Man." "Mediator," a go-between, one who helps resolve a dispute.

A. Old Testament Revelation.

1. Job.

For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgement. Neither is there any day's man betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both (9:32,33).

O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbour! (16:21).

2. Moses. God spoke to Moses, giving him the Law, and Moses gave it to the people.

3. The High Priest. Aaron represented the twelve tribes of Israel before God.

B. New Testament Revelation.

1. Jesus Christ is revealed as the _____ between God and man.

And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament (Hebrews 9:15; see also 8:6).

And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant (Hebrews 12:24).

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises (Hebrews 8:6).

2. Jesus _____ to be the mediator by being both fully God and fully man--a sinless man.

For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5 NLT)

- a. In His sinless humanity is the sacrifice.
- b. In His deity He is the High Priest.

Jesus couldn't do what He did if He hadn't been who He was.