

Christology

Christology is the study of the person and work of Jesus Christ, including his divine and human natures.

The Person of Christ

- Jesus Christ is the one unique God, having no beginning and no end (Jn. 1:1-2; 8:58; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 1:6, 8). He is co-equal, co-eternal, and co-existent with the Father and the Holy Spirit (Ps. 90:2; John 17:5, 24; Heb. 9:14).
- Jesus Christ freely and willingly came to earth and took upon Himself the nature of man, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; Luke 1:34-35).
- He is one person possessing two natures, being both 100% man and 100% God (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1-17; Phil. 2:5-8; 1 Tim. 2:5). These two natures are distinct, complete, and undiminished in spite of their union in one person (John 1:14; Col. 1:15-18).
- The temptations of Christ were real, even though He was unable to sin (Matt. 4; James 1:13-15).
 - He knew no sin (2 Cor. 5:21)
 - He was without sin (Heb. 4:15)
 - He committed no sin (1 Pet. 2:22)
 - In Him there was no sin (1 Jn. 3:5).

The Person of Christ

- Jesus Christ perfectly fulfilled the will of the Father, even to the point of death on a cross (Luke 22:42; John 8:29; Phil. 2:8).
- Jesus Christ is a prophet, priest and king.
 - In His office of prophet, He represents God to man (1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 1:1-2).
 - In His office of priest, He represents man to God (Ps. 110:1; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:25).
 - In His office of king, He rules over all His creation and will someday return to rule in His kingdom on the earth (Col. 1:15-17; Rev. 20:4, 6).

The Work of Christ

- God is the sole cause of the atonement (Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:3-6). This work on behalf of mankind is based upon the holy and loving character of God (John 3:16; Rom. 3:23-26; 1 Jn. 4:8-10).
- Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Cor. 15:3, 4).
- Jesus Christ's work on the cross was multifaceted.
 - The work of Christ was vicarious in that He paid the penalty for our sin (John 19:30; Eph. 1:7).
 - The work of Christ was substitutionary in that He took all of our sins upon Himself and also imparted righteousness to the believer at the moment of salvation (Isa. 53:5; Rom. 5:8; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24).
 - The work of Christ was sacrificial in that He was offered up in our behalf (Isa. 53:10; John 1:29).
 - The work of Christ was expiatory in that it removed the guilt of our sins (Col. 1:14, 20; Heb. 9:13, 14).
 - The work of Christ was propitiuous in that the just demands of God were satisfied and His wrath was appeased (Isa. 53:11; Rom. 3:23-26; 1 Jn. 2:1-2).
 - The work of Christ was redemptive in that He purchased us from the slave market of sin into which we had sold ourselves (Rom. 7:14; 1 Cor. 6:20; Gal. 3:13).
 - The work of Christ was reconciliatory in that it removed the enmity between God and man (Romans 5:1, 11; 2 Cor. 5:18-21).

The Work of Christ

- Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead, and He was present on the earth for forty days after His resurrection, in which time He was seen by the Apostles and many other witnesses (John 20, 21; Acts 10:40, 41; 1 Cor. 15:3-8).
- At the end of the forty days, Christ ascended into heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of the Father (Acts 1:1-11; Col. 3:1; 1 Tim. 3:16). This is a position of great exaltation from which He intercedes on behalf of believers (Acts 2:33; Eph. 1:20-21; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 7:25).
- Jesus Christ will come again to the earth where He will establish His kingdom and rule and reign for a thousand years (Acts 1:11; Rev. 20:4, 6). At the end of this period, He will deliver the kingdom up to the Father whereby it will become an eternal kingdom (1 Cor. 15:22-28).
- The intent of the atonement was to satisfy God's justice, to display His own glory, and to make salvation available to all mankind (John 3:16; Rom. 3:23-26; Eph. 1:12).
- Although the atonement is universal in nature, only by faith in Christ is salvation secured by the believer (Isa. 53:6; Jn. 1:12, 29; Rom. 5:18-19; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 1 Jn. 2:1-2).

Summary

- Jesus is 100% God and 100% man.
- Jesus is a prophet, priest, and king.
- Jesus secured salvation for us by dying on the cross for our sins and rising again the third day.
- Jesus' work on the cross is multifaceted and worthy of contemplation.
- Jesus is currently in heaven interceding for us.
- Jesus is coming again.
- Christology is a subset of theology.

Quotation

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Apostles' Creed

Quotation

The glory of the incarnation is that it presents to our adoring gaze not a humanized God or deified man, but a true God-man — one who is all that God is and at the same time all that man is: on whose almighty arm we can rest, and to whose human sympathy we can appeal. We cannot afford to lose either the God in the man or the man in the God; our hearts cry out for the complete God-man whom the Scriptures offer us.

B.B. Warfield (1851-1921)

Quotation

He was poor that he might make us rich. He was born of a virgin that we might be born of God. He took our flesh that he might give us his Spirit. He lay in the manger that we might lie in paradise. He came down from heaven that he might bring us to heaven . . . that the Ancient of Days should be born,—that he who thunders in the heavens should cry in the cradle,—that he who rules the stars should suck the breast,—that a virgin should conceive,—that Christ should be made of a woman, and of that woman which himself made,—that the branch should bear the vine,—that the mother should be younger than the child she bore, and the child in the womb bigger than the mother,—that the human nature should not be God, yet one with God: this was not only amazing but miraculous.

Thomas Watson (1620-1686)

Quotation

In Christ two natures met to be your cure.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

Quotation

Jesus was God and man in one person, that God and man might be happy together again.

George Whitefield (1714-1770)