

Week 4: Christology (Part 1)

I. The Person of Christ

The portrait of Jesus in Scripture is so deep that it defies human ability to grasp it exhaustively.
- RC Sproul

A. Who is Jesus of Nazareth?

1. The work of Christ can never be separated from the Person of Christ
2. In proclaiming Christ, you are proclaiming an entire theology of God and the world

Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man in one person, and will be so forever.
- Wayne Grudem

B. Jesus in the Old Testament

1. The God of Creation (Gen 1-2, Ps 33:6, Jn 1:1-5, Heb 1:1-2)
2. The promised seed (Gen 3:15, 12:1-3, 2 Sam 7:1-16, Mt 1:1-17/Lk 3:23-38)
3. The promise of the coming of the LORD (Is 40:3-11, Ezk 34:11-24; Mal 3:1-2)
4. The promised *Messianic Figure/Davidic King* (Gen 3:15; Ps 2, 45, 110; Is 7:14, 9:2-7, 11:1-10; Ezk 34:11-24; Dan 7:13-14; etc.)
5. Foreshadowed in key OT figures (Moses/Elijah-Joshua/Elisha, David/Solomon, Aaron/Zadok, etc.)
6. Foreshadowed in types and themes (Sacrificial System, Temple, Priesthood, etc.)

C. Jesus in the New Testament

1. *Fully God* (Jn 1:1-5, 5, 18:3-6, 20:24-29; Mk 2:1-12; Lk 1:26-38; Col 1:15-19, 2:9; Heb 1:1-3)
 - The Divine Nature/Essence (Phil 2:1-11)
 - The Divine Attributes (Col 2:9, Jn 21:17, Acts 1:24, Eph 4:10, Heb 13:8)
 - The Divine Functions (Jn 1:3, Col 1:16-17, Heb 1:2-3; Dt 7:8, Neh 1:10, Ps 103:4, Is 41:14, 43:14, 63:16, Acts 7:35, Gal 3:13)
2. *Fully Man* (Luke 1:26-38, 2:40, 2:52, 24:39; Matthew 4:2, John 4:6, Heb 2:14-18, 5:8)
 - The Doctrine of Man...
 - Mankind as created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-28, 5:1-3/Lk 3:37, Jas 3:9)
 - Mankind as a being of the earth (Gen 2:5-7)
 - Mankind is the unity of the physical & spiritual realms
 - Mankind as God's appointed rulers over creation (Gen 1:28)
 - Jesus is fully man (Jn 1:14-18, 1 Jn 4:2-3, 2 Jn 7)

- The Son of God has two natures (Phil 2:1-11)
- The importance of the virgin birth (Mt 1:18-25, Lk 1:26-38, Heb 2:14-18, 4:15)
 - Jesus born a man...
 - Jesus born without sin...

D. The Names of Christ

1. Lord (Phil 2:11/Isa 45:23; Ex 6:2; Isa 45:5; Acts 2:36; 1 Cor 12:3; Dt 10:17; Ps 136:3; Rev 17:14; 19:16)
2. Messiah ("Christ")
3. Son of Man (Mt 12:40, 17:12, 22, 20:18, 28; 26:2, 24, 45; Mk 8:31; 9:9; 9:12, 31; 10:33, 45; 14:21, 41; Lk 9:22, 44; 11:30; 18:31; 22:22, 48; 24:7, Jn 3:14; 8:28; 12:23-24; 13:31)
4. Son of God (Mt 4:3, 6, 8:29, Lk 1:35, Jn 3:18, Lk 3:38 (Gen 5:1-3), Mt 16:16, 26:63, Lk 1:32-33, Jn 1:49, Rom 1:4, Heb 1:5)
5. The Word (Jn 1:1-5, 14-18; 1 Jn 1:1; Rev 19:13)

E. Jesus in the post-apostolic era

Following, then, the holy Fathers, 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; the Self-same of a rational soul and body; 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 Theotokos as to the Manhood; One and the Same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten; acknowledged in Two Natures unconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the difference of the Natures being in no way removed because of the Union, but rather the properties of each Nature being preserved, and (both) concurring into One Person and One Hypostasis; not as though He was parted or divided into Two Persons, but One and the Self-same Son and Only-begotten God, Word, Lord, Jesus Christ; even as from the beginning the prophets have taught concerning Him, and as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself hath taught us, and as the Symbol of the Fathers hath handed down to us.

- The Council of Chalcedon

*Jesus surprises us in exercising acts of grace, and from his continual doing good unto and for his members... From his filling them with all mercy, grace, comfort, and felicity, himself becoming yet more full by filling them. **As truly God, Christ cannot become any more full**; he shares in his father immortal eternal unchangeable fullness. **Yet as truly man, Christ heart is not drained by our coming to him his heart is filled up all the more** by our coming to him.*

- Dane Ortlund