

## Systematic Theology, Lesson 18: Christology: The Doctrine of Christ, Part 1

### 1. Defining the Person of Christ

- a. "Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man in one person, and will be so forever."<sup>1</sup>
- b. The definition has four parts. Jesus Christ was . . .
  - i. Fully God
  - ii. Fully man
  - iii. In one person
  - iv. And will be so forever

### 2. The Humanity of Christ

- a. Jesus had a human body, mind, soul/spirit, and emotions.
  - i. Body and mind:
    1. Jesus grew and developed bodily and \_\_\_\_\_. **Luke 2:52:** And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.
    2. Jesus identified himself as a man. **John 8:40a:** But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God.
    3. Jesus' body was weak and wearied. **John 4:6b:** So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.
    4. Jesus experienced thirst and hunger. **John 19:28:** After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, "I am thirsty." **Matt 4:2:** And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

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<sup>1</sup> Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994), 490.

5. Jesus said he had a physical body. **Luke 24:39**: “See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

ii. Soul/spirit and emotions:

1. Jesus attests to his soul/spirit. **John 12:27**: “Now My soul has become troubled.” **John 13:21**: When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.”

2. Jesus experienced love and compassion. **Matt 9:36**: Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

3. Jesus wept (**John 11:35**).

4. Jesus experienced sorrow and grief. **Matt 26:38**: Then He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.”

b. Why is the full humanity of Jesus necessary?

i. To be our substitute. **Heb 2:16-17**: For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. Therefore, He [Jesus] had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

ii. To be our mediator. **1 Tim 2:5**: For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

iii. To be our \_\_\_\_\_. **Rom 5:18-19**: So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

iv. To be our example. **1 Pet 2:21**: For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

### 3. The Deity of Christ

#### a. Defending the deity of Christ

##### i. Attributes of deity

1. Eternality. **John 17:5** (ESV): And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.
2. Omniscience. **Col 2:2-3** (ESV): that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
3. Omnipotence. **Luke 4:40** (ESV): Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them.
4. Immutable (unchanging). **Heb 13:8**: Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.

##### ii. Works of deity

1. Forgives sins. **Mark 2:5**: And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."
2. Gives \_\_\_\_\_. **John 5:21**: For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.
3. Raises the dead. **John 11:43**: When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."
4. Judges all people. **John 5:22, 27**: For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, . . . and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man.
5. Creates and sustains all things. **Col 1:16-17**: For by Him [Christ] all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—

all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

iii. Titles of deity

1. Immanuel. **Matt 1:23**: “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.”
2. Lord. **Phil 2:11**: and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
3. Son of God. **John 10:36**: Do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?
4. I Am. **John 8:58**: Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”

iv. Statements of deity

1. **John 10:30**: “I and the Father are one.”
2. **Col 2:9**: For in Him [Christ] all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.
3. **John 1:1-3**: 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 came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

b. Why is the deity of Christ necessary?

- i. To be our sin bearer. Only someone who is God can bear the full penalty of the sins of those who believe in him. A mere human could not.
- ii. To be our \_\_\_\_\_. Only someone who is God can mediate between God and man. A mere human could not.

4. **GCBC Statement of Faith**: Under “God,” subsection “God the Son”:

(Paragraph 1): We teach that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, possesses all the divine excellencies, and in these He is coequal, consubstantial, and coeternal with the Father.

(Paragraph 2): We teach that God the Father created according to His own will, through His Son, Jesus Christ, by whom all things continue in existence and in operation.

(Paragraph 13): As the mediator between God and man, . . . he is the final judge of all who fail to place their trust in Him as Lord and Savior.

## 5. The Sinlessness of Christ

### a. Evidence for sinlessness.

- i. **2 Cor 5:21**: He made Him [Christ] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- ii. **1 Pet 2:22**: WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH.

### b. Could Jesus have sinned?

#### i. Views

1. Yes, Jesus could have sinned (peccability).
2. No, Jesus could not have sinned (impeccability).

#### ii. Arguments

1. Peccability: If Christ could not have sinned, then his temptations were not real, and he could not sympathize with us; therefore, he could have sinned.
2. Impeccability: Since Christ had two natures (divine and human) in one person, the person, Jesus Christ, could not have sinned, for how can God sin?

#### iii. Solution

1. We must affirm \_\_\_\_\_ statements of Scripture:
  - a. Christ never sinned.
  - b. Christ was truly tempted.

c. **Heb 4:15:** For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.

2. Given these two truths, we can say . . .

- a. With respect to Christ's human nature, Christ could have sinned.
- b. With respect to Christ's divine nature, Christ could not have sinned.
- c. With respect to Christ's person he could not have sinned.