

## THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST

C. Stephen David | Ekklesia Evangelical Fellowship | July 10, 2022

- ❖ **Hebrews 1:1-3**, “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...”

When Charles Spurgeon preached from Hebrews 1:2-3 on May 21, 1882, he began with these words, “**I HAVE nothing to do tonight but to preach Jesus Christ.** This was the old subject of the first Christian ministers: “Daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.” When Philip went down to the city of Samaria, he “preached Christ unto them.” When he sat with the Ethiopian eunuch in his chariot, he “preached unto him Jesus.” As soon as Paul was converted, “straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues.”...We shall not be ashamed to preach what the apostles preached, and what martyrs and confessors preached. We hope to proclaim this glorious gospel of the blessed God as long as we live; and we hope that, when this generation of preachers shall have passed away, unless the Lord shall come, there will be ever found a succession of men who shall determine to preach nothing “save Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

### 1. CHRIST IS THE INHERITOR

**Scripture: Hebrews 1:2**, “but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, **whom he appointed the heir of all things...**”

**Heir:** The one who legally receives all things from his family.

One of the reasons why Christ is called the Son of God is because **He is the heir of all things**. Only Son will become the heir of His Father’s inheritance.

**All things:** Everything that God created, Christ is the heir (possessor) of it.

**Personal Application:** All things, includes you and what all you have (your job, your money, your possessions, your children, your family, your life....etc)

**Abraham Kuypers (theologian and former Prime Minister of the Netherlands):** "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'"

**Question:** When Christ is already the eternal God who possesses all things, why then the Scripture says that God had appointed Him the heir of all things?

**John Calvin** says that the word “heir” is ascribed to **Christ in His humanity** “for this purpose, that he might **restore to us what we had lost in Adam.**”

- ❖ **Philippians 2:6-11**, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped [*glory in divinity*], but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **Therefore God has highly exalted him [*glory in humanity as the Redeemer*]** and **bestowed on him the name that is above every name**, so that at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow**, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and **every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**
  
- ❖ **Romans 8:16-17**, The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—**heirs of God** and **fellow heirs with Christ**, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

**Note:** Christ’s death was necessary for our death to sin; Christ’s resurrection was necessary for our resurrection of the dead; Christ’s exaltation was necessary for our glorification. CHRIST BECAME HUMAN SO THAT WHATEVER HE DID IN HIS HUMANITY WAS FOR THE BENEFIT OF US HUMAN BEINGS SO THAT WE MAY GLORIFY GOD IN ALL THINGS!

Do you believe in Christ? If so, do you have this hope of the glorious inheritance awaiting you? (This is what Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:18)

## **2. CHRIST IS THE CREATOR**

**Scripture: Hebrews 1:2**, “but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, **through whom also he created the world...**”

**Father:** Conception, **Son:** Action, **Holy Spirit:** Application

Since the Scripture testifies that God the Father and God the Son and even God the Holy Spirit were involved in creating the world, we believe that the plural word “**us**” in **Genesis 1:26** is a Trinitarian communication:

- ❖ Then God said, “Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness...”

**Hebrews 1:2**, “... **through whom also he created the world ...**”

**Note:** It is noticeable that this writer uses the word for ‘ages’ (*aiōnes*) and not the usual word for worlds (*kosmoi*). He not only created the physical earth but also time, space, energy, matter, the whole universe and everything that makes it function.

**Donald Guthrie:** Sonship and heirship, are closely linked...The heir is also the creator. He is not inheriting what he has not been connected with. He inherits what he himself made.

- ❖ **John 1:3**, All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

The universe doesn't exist by accident. It exists because of Christ. From the tiniest molecule to the gigantic sun, from the minute grass to the massive mountain, from the smallest worm to the wondrous human being, from the least angel to the archangel—all things were made by Christ.

- ❖ **Colossians 1:16**, For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

**Note:** Christ being the Creator designates Him as God.

**Personal Application:** You are God's creation. You are fearfully and wonderfully made by Christ. It is not how you look like according to the fallen human sight that matters; it is who made you that matters.

### 3. CHRIST IS THE REFLECTOR

**Scripture: Hebrews 1:3**, He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...

**Arian heresy:** The doctrine denying the true divinity of Christ, named after the Alexandrian priest Arius (c. 250–c. 336). Theodoret (bishop of Cyrrhus, 423–457) says that the Arians rejected Hebrews from the canon because of this text (P. Hughes, p. 41).

**a. Glory of God:** Manifestation of His nature, attributes, and majesty

**Radiance (shining) of the glory of God:** Shining or showing who God really is

**Someone said**, “Jesus is God revealed God to humanity.”

**Ambrose (bishop of Milan in the 4<sup>th</sup> century):** Where there is light there is radiance, and where there is radiance there is also light; and thus we cannot have a light without radiance nor radiance without light, because both the light is in the radiance and the radiance in the light. Thus the Apostle has taught us to call the Son ‘the Radiance of the Father’s glory’, for the Son is the Radiance of his Father’s light, co eternal because of eternity of power, inseparable by unity of brightness.

**b. The exact imprint (stamp) of his nature:**

**It is said:** “The Greek term *charaktēr* (“representation” or “image”) was used of coins or seals in the first century that bore images or impressions meant to represent the emperor exactly.”

**Meaning:** Christ is the exact resemblance of God's being.

- ❖ For this reason, Christ said to Philip who asked Him to show the Father, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” (**John 14:9**)

**Note:** These words were not claimed by anyone in the Scripture. Humans were made in God's image (partially) but not the exact imprint of God's nature.

❖ **Hebrews 1:3**, He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...

**This speaks about three things:**

1. **The exact imprint of his nature:** Christ is having the same essence as the Father. All that the Father is, the Son is: The Father is eternal, so is the Son. The Father is the Creator, so is the Son. The Father is righteous and holy, so is the Son. The Father is the Redeemer, so is the Son. The Father is God, so is the Son. Christ is no inferior deity.
2. **The exact imprint of his nature:** Christ is distinct from the Father in person, i.e., Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Father. **Heresy:** Modalism
3. **The exact imprint of his nature:** God the Father cannot be known without God the Son. Christ is the absolute and ultimate revelation of God. There is no salvation without Christ.

**The devil's number one target: 2 Corinthians 4:4**, "In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."