

I. Introduction

“Tell me three things about Jesus...provide simple sentences that you think are most important to know about Jesus” Whether these things are biblically informed or not...Three things. Write them down, and share with your group.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

“...Unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24)

What is the Doctrine of Christ?

The DoC, or Christology is the study of the _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ.

II. The Person of Christ

A. Now this is important...

1. If Christ came into existence at His birth, then no eternal Trinity exists.
2. If Christ did not exist in eternity past...He is *Not God*. If Christ was not preexistent then He could not be God, because, among other attributes, God is eternal.
3. If Christ was not preexistent then He lied about himself, because He claimed to be. “Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58). If he lied, he committed sin and was not God.
4. He claimed equality of nature with God (John 10:30). He claimed equal glory with the Father before the world began (17:5). Paul also claimed Christ had the same nature as God (Phil. 2:6). These passages are evidences for eternity as well.
4. *Do not miss this...Jesus* claimed full Deity, and others attested to it. For now Colossians 2:9 will suffice— “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily”.

B. Jesus experienced the same things we do:

1. Gal 4:4 “born of a woman”
2. Called the son of Mary (Luke 2:7)
3. He was a descendant of David (Acts 2 and Romans 1)
4. PHYSICAL REACTIONS:
 - a. Hunger (Matthew 4:2)
 - b. Thirst (John 19:20)
 - c. Fatigue (John 4:6)
 - d. He wept (John 11)
 - e. He weiled (Luke 19:41)
 - f. Sighed (Mark 7:34)
 - g. Groaned (Mark 8:12)
 - h. Agony and dread (anticipation of death in the Garden)

i. Death - like all of humanity, Jesus experienced what we all will...death of our body.

1 Timothy 2:5 *"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, THE MAN CHRIST JESUS."*

So we have Jesus...scripture attesting to his divinity, but also attesting that he was a man. Discuss among yourselves... "Can this be? Is it important?!"

C. The Hypostatic Union. It means existing in the same space...meaning fully God, fully human. Jesus is God. Jesus is human. Only in being perfectly God can he both forgive sin, and atone for it. Only in being a man can he die, absorbing the penalty of sin and bearing the sins of those that believe. Anything less or more than human than he is not perfectly fit. Anything less than God, the ability to be both just and the justifier of believing sinners is not possible. He is not more than one than the other. There is mystery here...The Bible tells us that "Jesus was tempted" and "Jesus was fully man" and "Jesus was fully God" and "God cannot be tempted."

D. Kenosis Theory points to the word "kenow" from **Phil 2:6-7** that says... "though he was in the form of God do not count equality with God a thing to be grasped (held onto his rights, gripped, demanded)...but EMPTIED HIMSELF. So what is the problem? The text does not say he ceased to be God...RATHER...

How is seeing what Jesus did by not grasping his rights as God almighty, worthy of absolute allegiance relevant for our lives today?

E. Conclusion: As Wayne Grudem explains, *"Christ Is Fully Divine. The New Testament, in hundreds of explicit verses call Jesus "God" and "Lord" and use a number of other titles of deity to refer to him, and in many passages that attribute actions or words to him that could only be true of God himself, affirms again and again the full, absolute deity of Jesus Christ. "In him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell" (Col. 1:19), and "in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily" (Col. 2:9). We argued that Jesus is truly and fully man. Now we conclude that he is truly and fully God as well. His name is rightly called "Emmanuel," that is, "God with us" (Matt. 1:23)."*

III. The Work of Jesus

A. He reveals God to us.

Why is this important? What gospel do you find most helpful in seeing Jesus?

B. To Provide an Example for Our Lives

C. To Provide The Only Effective Sacrifice for Sin

Without the Incarnation we would have no Savior. Sin requires death for its payment. God does not die. So the Savior must be human in order to be able to die. But the death of an ordinary man would not pay for sin eternally, so the Savior must also be God. We must have a God-man Savior, and have him in our Lord Jesus (Heb. 10:1–10).

Christ defeated Sin and Death by Atoning through Substitution - Paul's first importance, (turn there) (1 Cor 15:3...Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures.

WHAT DOES THIS SHOW? (see Ladd p424ff)

1. The love of God (Romans 5:8)...motivated by love, demonstrated by action to bring believing sinners into relationship.
2. Sacrificial - pointing to OT sacrifice. The book of Leviticus and the book of Hebrews testify...Without shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins.
3. Substitutionary (vicarious) (Rom 5:8, 8:32, Gal 3:13)
4. Propitiatory (incurring God's divine and righteous wrath against sin)+ Heart of the gospel, (2 Cor 5:21)...fulfillment of OT prophesy of the suffering savior (Isaiah 53)

D. To Be Able to Be a Sympathetic High Priest (Heb. 4:14–16)

E. To Be Able to Be a Qualified Judge

F. Jesus work includes coming to serve us (by giving his life), save us (by bearing sin's penalty), and sanctify us (by His Spirit sealing and abiding in us)

G. Jesus Work Provides Rest and Rule:

What is the most amazing miracle in the bible? Creation, parting of the Red Sea, Jesus walking on water, the Resurrection? What do you think?

Wayne Gruden states in his stellar work "Systematic Theology"... "It may be easy for us to lose sight of what is actually taught in Scripture. It is by far the most amazing miracle of the entire Bible—far more amazing than the resurrection and more amazing even than the creation of the universe. The fact that the infinite, omnipotent, eternal Son of God could become man and join himself to a human nature forever, so that infinite God became one person with finite man, will remain for eternity the most profound miracle and the most profound mystery in all the universe."

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION (some of these are already inserted in the material):

1. You are with a stranger who has never hear of Jesus. What are three things, and only three things that you think are most important to know?
2. Pastor Brian discussed the stumbling block of discussing Jesus vs God...i.e., it is easier to talk about belief in God than discuss Jesus. Why is this so for many people? Has it ever been a challenge for you? Why do you think?
3. What is more important...the person or the work of Jesus.
4. From Grudem:
 1. After reading this chapter, are there specific ways in which you now think of Jesus as being more like you than you did before? What are these? How can a clearer understanding of Jesus' humanity help you face temptations? How can it help you to pray? What are the most difficult situations in your life right now? Can you think of any similar situations that Jesus might have faced? Does that encourage you to pray confidently to him? Can you picture what it would have been like if you had been present when Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I am"? What would you have felt? Honestly, what would your response have been? Now try visualizing yourself as present when Jesus made some of the other "I am" statements recorded in John's gospel.
 2. After reading this chapter, is there anything that you understand more fully about the deity of Jesus? Can you describe (and perhaps identify with) what the disciples must have felt as they came to a growing realization of who Jesus actually was? Do you think Jesus is the one person you would be able to trust with your life for all eternity? Will you be happy to join with thousands of others in worshipping around his throne in heaven? Do you delight in worshipping him now?

Sources:

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Wayne A. Grudem, [Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine](#) (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004)