

BASIC DOCTRINE
Lesson 3 (Teacher's Version)
THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST (CHRISTOLOGY)

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (Jn. 14:6). There is no other way to get to heaven except through Jesus and there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12). Therefore it is important to know who Jesus is. Satan has raised up many cults which preach and teach a Jesus slightly different from the Jesus of the Bible (Matt. 24:5, 11). Satan does this to deceive people into following a Jesus who doesn't exist. Imagine dying, standing before God, only to discover the Jesus you followed was not the real one but a very close imposter. To avoid being deceived, we must learn from the Scriptures who the real Jesus is. The doctrine of Christ or "Christology" is the study of Jesus the Christ.

I. JESUS' HUMANITY

A. Jesus was born of a woman and raised by human His Parents

1. Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.
2. Gal. 4:4 But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.

B. Jesus had Natural human Growth

1. Luke 2:40, 52 And the Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. . . And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.
2. Heb. 5:8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

C. Jesus had Normal Human Appearance

1. John 4:9 The Samaritan woman therefore *said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

D. Human Attributes and Limitations

1. Physical limitations
 - a. Mt. 8:24 And behold, there arose a great storm in the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves; but He Himself was asleep.

- b. Mt. 21:18 Now in the morning, when He returned to the city, He became hungry.
- c. John 4:6-7 and Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. There *came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus *said to her, "Give Me a drink."
- d. John 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, *said, "I am thirsty."
- e. I Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

E. Jesus had Intellectual limitations

- 1. Luke 2:52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.
- 2. Mark 11:13 And seeing at a distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to see if perhaps He would find anything on it; and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.
- 3. Mark 13:32 "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

F. Moral/Spiritual attributes

- 1. Hebrews 2:18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.
- 2. Hebrews 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.
- 3. Mark 1:35 And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there.
- 4. Acts 10:38 "You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.

G. Jesus had human names

- 1. Isa. 52:13 (Read context down through 53:12 to see that the servant is

Christ.) Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up, and greatly exalted.

2. Matthew 9:27 And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, and saying, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"
3. Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
4. Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—
5. I Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

H. **THE KENOSIS (The term "Kenosis" describes Jesus' voluntary laying aside of the independent exercise of His divine attributes. When God became a God-man (incarnate) He possessed all the attributes of God but chose not to exercise those attributes independently. He only used them in submission to the Father's will.)**

1. Philippians 2:5-8 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
 - a. What form did Jesus exist in (vs. 6)?
 - b. What incarnated likeness and appearance did He take on (vss. 7-8)?
 - (1) Why is it important to know and believe that Jesus was fully human?
 - (2) If Jesus was not human how would that affect his death on the cross and our atonement for sins?
 - (3) If Jesus was not human than how would that affect his purpose for coming to earth?

II. THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

A. Divine Author of Revelation

1. John 1:1, 14, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
2. Rev. 19:11-13 And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself. And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God.

B. Divine Names of Christ

1. Mt. 16:16 (used 40 times of Christ) And Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."
2. Acts 9:17 And Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
3. Acts 10:36 "The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)—"
4. I Cor. 2:8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
5. Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.
6. Heb. 1:8 But of the Son He says, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.

C. Jesus Received Divine Worship

1. Deuteronomy 6:13 (quoted in Mt. 4:10 & Lk. 4:8) "You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him, and swear by His name.
2. John 20:28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

3. Heb. 1:6 And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, “And let all the angels of God worship Him.”
4. Rev. 5:9-14 And they *sang a new song, saying, “Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 “And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” 11 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.” 13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” 14 And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

D. Jesus Performs Divine Works

1. Compare John 1:3 & Col. 1:16 with Gen. 1:1
 - a. Jn. 1:3 All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
 - b. Col. 1:16 For by Him 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 by Him and for Him.
 - c. Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
2. Mark 2:5 And Jesus seeing their faith *said to the paralytic, “My son, your sins are forgiven.”
3. Mark 4:39-41 And being aroused, He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.

E. Old Testament Prophecies Predicted the Messiah Would be God

1. Isa. 7:14 (Matt. 1:23) “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

2. Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
3. Jer. 23:5-6 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “When I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land. “In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, ‘The Lord our righteousness.’”
4. Micah 5:2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”

F. Jesus Possessed Divine Attributes

1. Compare Isa. 43:11 with Phil. 3:20
 - a. Isa. 43:11 “I, even I, am the Lord; And there is no savior besides Me.
 - b. Phil. 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;
2. Matthew 4:23 And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.
3. Matthew 28:18, 20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. . . teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
4. Hebrews 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.
 - a. Why is it important to believe that Jesus is God?
 - b. If Jesus wasn't God what implications would that have?
 - c. Why do you think the deity of Christ has been under attack since the time that Jesus claimed to be God?

III. THE DUAL NATURES OF CHRIST - MAN AND GOD

A. "THE HYPOSTATIC UNION" (two natures, one person)

The Council of Chalcedon (A.D. 451) decreed:

Therefore, following the holy Fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting also of a reasonable soul and body: of one substance [hypostasis] with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin; as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards his manhood begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin, the God-bearer; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence [hypostasis], not as parted or separated into two person, but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of him, and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the creed of the Fathers has handed down to us.¹

- B. Why is it important to believe that Jesus was both man and God?
- C. What are the consequences of saying Jesus was only part God or part man, or part God and man?
- D. Why do all of the cults have a faulty view of the persona and work of Jesus Christ?

IV. ERRORS ABOUT CHRIST, HIS PERSON, WORK AND NATURE

A. Ancient Heresies about Christ

- 1. Heresies Concerning Deity
 - a. Ebionism: The Ebionites were second century group of professing Christians who were judaizers. They tried to be saved by grace yet justified by keeping the law. They were strict monotheists (believed in one God) and had a hard time accepting the fact of the trinity. They rejected the virgin birth and taught that "the Christ" came upon Jesus at His baptism. This left Jesus as a mere man who

² This statement is the result of one of the greatest attempts to define the dual natures of Christ. It was written by the church fathers at the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD in response and reaction to the many heresies about Christ's nature. This translation was taken from Henry Bettenson, *Documents of the Christian Church*, pgs. 51-52.

received some supernatural anointing from God but not the God-man. Their heretical teaching included the fact that they rejected the 13 letters written by the Apostle Paul.

- b. Arianism: Arius was a church leader (A.D. 318) from Alexandria. Arius also denied the deity of Christ and was more of a threat because he believed in the writings of Paul and was more systematic in his beliefs. Arius denied the trinity but believed that Jesus was the Wisdom and Word of God but not God Almighty. Arius explained away the scriptures which speak to Christ's deity by saying that they were accommodations or expressions of courtesy so we could understand the exceptionally human Jesus.
- c. Dynamic Monarchianism: The Monarchian's were another group which denied the deity of Christ. They believed that when the Spirit of God rested on Jesus at his baptism Jesus became a godlike man. They were steeped in Greek logic and because they could not form a syllogistically correct explanation for the trinity they denied it.

2. Heresies concerning the two natures of Christ

- a. Nestorianism: Nestorius lived in A. D. 428. Nestorius embraced some of the Arian heresy that Jesus was just a son and the Apollinarian heresy (see below) which says Jesus manhood was incomplete. This made Jesus not quite God and not quite man but partially God and partially man. He believed only the man part of Jesus suffered and the God part didn't. Hence he used this kind of reasoning to explain the many godly and human characteristics of Christ.
 - b. Athanasius: Athanasius lived in the early fourth century. He had a very close to orthodox view of Christ but denied that Jesus had dual natures i.e. fully God and fully man. He maintained that Jesus had two natures which worked separately. He denied that Jesus had a human soul and mind therefore making Jesus only partially human.
 - c. Apollinarius: Apollinarius was a fourth century friend of Athanasius. Apollinarius was appalled that anyone might believe that Jesus had a human and divine soul. He wanted to maintain the unity of Christ's nature but could not be convinced that Jesus was both God and Man. He believed that Jesus' divine soul eclipsed or usurped Jesus human soul therefore making Jesus not fully man.
- ## 3. Modalistic Monarchianism: The Modalistic Monarchians also rejected the dual natures of Christ. They believed that God was only God the Father and to say Jesus was also God was a denial

of the oneness of God. Hence, Jesus was not God in their view, only a man.

4. Heresies Concerning the Humanity of Christ

- a. Docetism: They believed all matter was evil. They did believe Jesus was God but denied that He was a physical man. They believed Jesus was a pure spirit. Hence, they rejected the humanity of Christ.
- b. Gnosticism: The Gnostics believed that some members of the church lived by faith and others lived by knowledge. They believed some Christians didn't need faith only knowledge. This elite group of super knowledgeable individuals believed that Jesus was a lesser god. They believed that Jesus was a "psychic substance" and that He did not have a human body. Hence, they denied the full humanity and deity of Christ.
- c. Eutychianism: The Eutychian heresy denied the dual natures of Christ. They believed that the Father became the perfect God-man but denied the two natures of Christ. They believed the humanity of Christ was absorbed in His deity. This made Jesus only God and not man.

B. Modern heresies about Christ

1. Christian Science: Modern day example of the Docetic heresy i.e. all matter is evil therefore Jesus was purely a spirit.
2. Jehovah's Witnesses: Modern day example of the Arian heresy i.e. Jesus was a great man and a prophet and the Word of God but not God Almighty.
3. Mormonism: Mormons are modern day examples of polytheists i.e. believing there are many gods. Mormons believe that "As man is, God once was, and as God is, man may become." They believe we can all attain to divinity and hence believe in many god's.
4. Liberal theology: some liberal deny the deity and miracles of Christ. To be a liberal Christian is in reality an oxymoron. Anyone who denies the deity of Christ isn't a Christian according the Words of Jesus himself (Jn. 8:24). The deity of Christ is the main pillar of Christianity. If you reject Christ's deity you kick out that pillar and Christianity crumbles. If you reject the miracles of the Bible you make Jesus and the authors of Scripture liars, you undermine the Word of God, and strike a blow at the only objective source of revelation we have.