

deeper

word faith life

Module 2

The Doctrine of Christ

Prophecy and the Birth of Christ

The Law and the Cross of Christ

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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Session 1 – The Doctrine of Christ or Christology

The word [CHRISTOLOGY] comes from two Greek words: [CHRISTOS] - “Christ/Messiah” which means “Anointed One or Chosen One” (Mashiach in Hebrew), and [LOGOS] - “Word”. When put together they mean “the Study of Christ.” Therefore Christology is the study of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

THE PERSON OF CHRIST

What’s in a Name?

Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Yeshua which is a shortened version of the name Yehoshua or Joshua. It is a popular boys name meaning “Salvation” and it was the name that Mary was instructed to give her son in Luke 1:31.

Jesus Christ simply means Jesus the Anointed One, or Jesus the Messiah.

Names always carry significance in the Scriptures. They give us clues that reveal who a person was and what their life was about. When it comes to Jesus, the Scriptures are crammed full of them. In fact the Bible sites over 200 titles, descriptions, and names for Christ. Let’s take a look at just some of them:

_____ - (Isaiah 9:6) He came to bring peace between man and God. He died to reconcile sinners to a Holy God.

_____ - Used 42 times the New Testament it refers to the deity of Christ.

_____ - Jesus frequently used this description of Himself and it emphasises His humanity. It is also a Messianic title.

_____ - (Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 1:23) This simply means “God with us”. Isaiah and Matthew both affirm that this Jesus is in fact God Himself coming to earth in the form of a man to live amongst us.

_____ - (John 8:58, Exodus 3:14) When Jesus used this as a reference to Himself, the Jews tried to stone Him for blasphemy. They understood clearly that He was declaring Himself to be the eternal God of the Old Testament.

_____ - (Acts 3:14; Psalm 16:10) Christ is Holy, both in his divine and human nature, and by His death, we are made holy and pure before God.

_____ - (John 11:25) Jesus has the power to resurrect sinners to eternal life, just as He was rose from the grave. Our sinful nature is buried with Him and we are raised to newness of life.

_____ - (Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:11) He hung on a cross and died to redeem us, to buy us back from sin, He gives us His Holy Spirit to empower us, He sustains us in trials and in death, and raises us up at the last day. He is indeed our rescuer.

_____ - (John 15:1) The True Vine supplies all that the branches, the believers, need to live fruitful lives in the Spirit.

_____ - (John 14:6) Jesus is the only way to the Father, the only truth in a corrupt world, and the only means of eternal life.



_____ - (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16) Jesus has dominion over all authority on the earth, over all kings and rulers, and none can prevent Him from accomplishing His purposes. There is no-one who can compare to Him.

_____ - (John 8:12) Jesus came into a world darkened by sin and shines the light of life and truth through His work and His words. Those who trust in Him have His light and walk in that light.

_____ - (Revelation 1:8; 22:13) Jesus declared Himself to be the beginning and end of all things, a reference to no one else but the one true God.

_____ - (1 John 5:20) This is a direct assertion that Jesus is the true God. Since the Bible teaches there is only one God, this describes His nature as part of the triune Godhead.

_____ - (Hebrews 12:2) Salvation is accomplished through the faith that is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9) and Jesus is the founder of our faith and the finisher of it as well. From first to last, He is the source and sustainer of the faith that saves us.

_____ - (John 6:35; 6:48) In the same way that bread sustains life in the physical sense, Jesus is the Bread that makes possible sustains spiritual life and ultimately eternal life.

The Bridegroom - (Matthew 9:15) The picture of Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as His Bride reveals the special relationship we have with Him. We are bound to each other in a covenant of grace that cannot be broken.

_____ - (Romans 11:26) In the same way as the Israelites needed God to deliver them from bondage to Egypt, so Jesus is our Deliverer from our bondage to sin.

_____ - (John 10:11,14) As a shepherd in Bible times was willing to risk his own life to protect his sheep from predators, so Jesus laid down His life for His sheep, caring for and protecting us.

_____ - (Hebrews 2:17) Just as the ancient Jewish high priest entered the Temple once a year to make atonement for the sins of the people, so Jesus performed that function once and for all on the cross.

_____ - (John 1:29) God's Law called for the sacrifice of a spotless, unblemished Lamb as an atonement for sin. Jesus became that Lamb for our sin.

All that the whole body of Scripture teaches about the person of Christ can be distilled down to this statement: "Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man simultaneously in one person, and will be forever." We call this the Hypostatic Union. This is a mystery as profound as the Trinity itself.

Some Useful Terminology

_____ - Christ wasn't born on Christmas Day. He pre-existed in eternity passed. He never had a beginning, He always was. He says of His own pre-existence, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the end." Revelation 22:13 John 1:1-2 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning."

"Word" is used as a title for the Lord Jesus. The term translated [WORD] - [Logos] which literally means "the expression of a thought." Logos can here be understood as the total message or expression of God toward man. When God thinks of man in his



desperate, helpless, sinful state, His compassionate expression is Christ. So Jesus is the embodiment of His expression, of His thoughts toward us, and that is why He is called the "Logos," or "Word," of God. Christ is God's message of love to humanity.

_____ - Our word [INCARNATION] comes from the Latin word [Incarnatio] - "In flesh" It refers to Christ assuming a human nature without ceasing to be the eternal Son of God. Wayne Grudem in his Systematic Theology describes it as: "Remaining what He was, He became what He was not." John 1:14 says, "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

_____ - After much grappling with this mystery, the early church arrived at the Chalcedonian Definition of AD 451. Simply put, they concluded that: Within the one person of Jesus Christ exist two distinct natures, one Divine and one human. These natures are both complete, they are not mixed nor diminished. Christ is one Person, truly and completely God, and truly and completely man forever.

The Humanity of Christ - Jesus was fully, 100% human

_____ - He was born of a woman, as we are, but she miraculously conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, Matthew 1:18 says, "...she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit."

_____ - He had a body just like us, he grew up from a baby to an adult. "And the child grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on Him." (Luke 2:40) "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." (Luke 2:52)

People close to Him regarded Him as just an ordinary man. Matthew 13: 55-57 records this, "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offence at him."

At times Jesus got tired, He got hungry, He got thirsty. He was also weak at times. He resurrected in a physical body and He ascended to heaven in a physical body.

_____ - If He increased in wisdom, this indicates that He went through the normal human process of learning as any child would. He also said that He didn't know the specifics of His second coming. (Mark 13:32)

_____ - At times Jesus was troubled or anxious. He could also get angry. He was amazed on occasions. He was witty and sometimes sarcastic. He felt sorrow and anguish. Isaiah's Messianic prophecy describes Him in this way, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief..." (Isaiah 53:3)

_____ - Jesus was as human as we are, but for one major exception; He never sinned once, ever. We sin in three main ways:

Doing what shouldn't do

Not doing what we should do

Thinking sinful thoughts

Jesus never sinned once during His whole life on earth. Hebrews 4:15 says, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet he did not sin."



The Necessity of Jesus' Humanity - Why was this necessary?

_____ - Where Adam failed because of his disobedience, Jesus as our representative obeyed on our behalf. Jesus had to be a human in order to represent humanity. (Romans 5:18,19; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49)

_____ - The penalty for our sin was death, Jesus had to be a man in order to take our place as a substitute, paying the price for our sin. (Hebrews 2:17)

_____ - This is the role of a High Priest, to represent man to God and God to man. Our mediation could only take place if the mediator was one of us, but for our mediation to be successful He also has to be God. (1 Timothy 2:5)

_____ - God's original purpose for mankind was for him to subdue the earth and rule over it as custodians of God's creation. Jesus had to be human for this original purpose to be restored. (Ephesians 1:22)

_____ - Jesus had to be a human being to be an example for us to follow. God wants us to be conformed into the image of Jesus. (Romans 8:29; 1 Peter 2:21)

_____ - Nobody in history has ever been resurrected and glorified as Jesus is. He is the "first fruits" demonstrating that there is more to come. He goes on before us as our prototype of a glorified human body. (1 Corinthians 15:23,49; Colossians 1:18)

_____ - In Jesus humanity He is able to sympathise with the struggles and temptations the human experience entails. He knows because He has lived as a man. (Hebrews 2:18)

Jesus will be a Man Forever

After His resurrection He appeared to His disciples, He walked the road to Emmaus with them, demonstrating to them that He was still a man. (Luke 24)

He ate food with them. (Luke 24:42)

He ascended to heaven in the clouds as a man. (Acts 1:9) And the angel in attendance said that He would return in the same way, as a man. (Acts 1:11)

Steven when he was being martyred looked up to heaven and saw Jesus standing at God's right hand. (Acts 7:55,56)

He appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus. (Acts 9:5)

In John's vision in the book of Revelation, Jesus appears standing among the lamp stands in His full glory and splendour. (Revelation 1:13)

Jesus humanity was not just a temporary arrangement, His divine nature is permanently and eternally united to His human nature.

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 9:6 NIV

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

