

3. Jesus (Christology)

Biblical and Systematic Theology, Harpeth Christian Church

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Recommend Memory Verses to Touch On

- Luke 24:25–27 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.
- John 5:39–40 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

The primacy of Christ in theology.

- In Biblical Theology: ESV and The Jesus Storybook Bible
- Luke 24:27 Seeing Christ throughout the Bible: “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”
- He’s the crux of systematic theology, the pinnacle of scholarly study, and the climax of the covenant. If Jesus doesn’t exist, the whole thing falls apart.

Who is this Jesus?

The person of Christ: Divine Human, God-Man:

1. Eternal *logos*
 - John 1:1–5, “John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”
 - Colossians 1:15–20: 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to

reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

2. Incarnate

- Creeds
 - Apostles' Creed: "I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
 - Nicene Creed: I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, // the Only Begotten Son of God, // born of the Father before all ages. // God from God, Light from Light, // true God from true God, // begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; // through him all things were made. // For us men and for our salvation // he came down from heaven, // and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, // and became man.
- Rom 1:1 "Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— 2 the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures 3 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David..."
- Birth narratives: Jesus was born as a baby.
- Physically walked the earth during his life
 - Slept
 - Ate
 - Drank
 - Bled
 - And died
- Post-resurrection, he still had a physical yet transformed body
- Why does the incarnation matter?
 1. For us:
 - Our bodies matter
 - Our souls are a matrix of being
 - We have hope because Jesus had a body and his Spirit lives in us
 - Even in the next world, our bodies will still matter
 2. For the physical world
 - In person matters
 - Other people's bodies matter
 - The world itself matters
- 3. Divine
 - Colossians 2:9–10: "Col 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."
 - John 8:52–58: 52 At this the Jews exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?" 54 Jesus replied, "If I glorify

myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. 55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” 57 “You are not yet fifty years old,” the Jews said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!” 58 “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “**before Abraham was born, I am!**” 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

- John 14:7–10: [Jesus said to Thomas], “If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” 8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” 9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.
- Thomas Oden in *Classic Christianity* has four metrics for proving that Jesus is God from the New Testament: called God, attributes of God, works of God, and worshiped as God.
 1. Called God. Divine logos (John 1:1), Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28); Lord of lords and King of kinds (Rev. 19:16). His name is “above every name” (Phil. 2:9).
 2. Attributes of God. Everlasting (Matt. 28:20; Heb 1:8, “8 But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.”); omniscient (John 1:48—he knew Philip before he spoke to him); omnipotent (John 13—all things under his feet; cf. Ephesians 1:22; Matthew 28:18).
 3. Works of God. He created all things (John 1:3); he preserves all things (Col. 1:17, “He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”); forgives sin (Mark 2:7); raises the dead (John 11:25).
 4. Worshiped as God. Matt 14:32–33: “32 And when [those disciples who were in the boat] climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”; Matthew 28:17: They worshiped him but some doubted.

The Life of Christ

After his birth...

- The kingdom came through him in word and deed
 - Matt 9:35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.
 - Luke 24:18–19: 18 “Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?” 19 “What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.

- Why does this matter? 2 Thess 2:16-17: 16 “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.”
- The Revolutionary Disciple:
 - Humble in word (listening and confessing)
 - Humble in deed (serving and submitting)
- The humiliation: betrayal, trial, beating, mocking, crucifixion, death, and burial
- The exaltation of Christ: resurrection, ascension, and enthronement

The functions of Christ: Prophet, Priest, and King

Jesus is “the Christ,” which was used of God’s leaders in three categories. Who were anointed?

1. Prophets
 - Elisha: Anointed by Elijah in 1 Kings 19: “Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.”
 - Isaiah was anointed by God: Isaiah 61:1, “The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, // because the LORD has anointed me // to preach good news to the poor.”
2. Priests
 - Aaron’s sons had to be at least 30 years old to become priests: “Num 4:1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: 2 “Take a census of the Kohathite branch of the Levites by their clans and families. 3 Count all the men from thirty to fifty years of age who come to serve in the work in the Tent of Meeting.”
 - “Exod 28:41 After you put these clothes on your brother Aaron and his sons, anoint and ordain them. Consecrate them so they may serve me as priests.”
 - Exod 40:15 “Anoint them just as you anointed their father, so they may serve me as priests. Their anointing will be to a priesthood that will continue for all generations to come.”
3. Kings
 - When they were appointed to be king by anointing
 - Samuel anointed Saul (1 Sam 10:1); All the people anointed Absalom (2 Sam 19:10); Zadok and Nathan anointed Solomon (1 Kings 1:34); Elijah anointed Hazael and Jehu (1 Kings 19:15-16), and others.
 - David’s multiple anointings
 - Samuel anointed him (1 Samuel 16:12)
 - Men of Judah anoint him 2 Sam 2:4: “4 Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.”
 - Elders of Israel (2 Sam 5:3): “2 Sam 5:3 When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a compact with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.”

- The Lord himself: 2 Sam 12:7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.'

Jesus as Prophet, Priest, and King

- Prophet:
 - Isaiah: Luke 4 with Isaiah 61
 - Elisha: John the baptist was the Elijah to come:
 - Mal 4:5 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."
 - "Matt 11:14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come."
- Priest
 - He was about 30 (Luke): Luke 3:23 Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry.
 - Atonement (Hebrews): Heb 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.
- King
 - Born king
 - Claimed to be king
 - Celebrated as king
 - Died as king
 - Ascended as king: Ephesians 1:19-23: That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Conclusion

Q&A