

Doctrine of Christ

We affirm that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all Messianic Old Testament prophecies. He is the promised seed and deliverer who came to earth to restore humanity (Gen. 3:15). He is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant, through whom the whole world is blessed (Gen.12:1-3). He is the promised King, the son of David of the tribe of Judah, (Gen 49:9-10) who fulfilled the Davidic covenant and reigns on a forever throne (2Sam. 7:1-29). He is the anticipated Messiah, the great prophet who like Moses spoke the very words of God with unprecedented authority (Deut. 18:15). He is the great “king priest”, a descendent not of Aaron, but uniquely descending from the ancient line of Melchizedek (Ps.110; 2Sam 6:13-17; Gen.14:17-20). He is the righteous sufferer (Ps. 22), the suffering servant (Isa. 52:13-53:12), the promised child born of a virgin (Isa.7:14; 9:6-7; Matt.1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38), and the Son of man (Dan 7:13-14; John 5:26; Luke 9:58). He is the promised deliverer from the town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace (Isa.9:6).

The New Testament writers claim that he is the eternal pre-existent Word (John 1:1, Col.1:17), the Son of God (John 1:34) the very image of God (Col.1:15; John14:9; Heb.1:3), God incarnate, fully human and fully divine, having two natures in one person (John 1:14; Col. 1:15, 19, 2:9 Phil.2:7-8; Heb.1:3, 2:17). He is the better sacrifice (Heb.9:23), the spotless Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). He is the uncreated creator of all things (John 1:3; Col.1:16; Heb.1:12), the sustainer of all things (Col.1:17; Heb.1:3), the reconciler of all things (Col. 1:20), and he has supremacy in all things (Col.1:18, Phil.2:10-11). He is the complete revelation of God (John 1:18, 6:68; Heb.1:1-2). He is the Lord over creation, the Lord over the church, and the Lord over our lives (Col. 1:15-20; Phil.2:9-11; 1Cor.8:6)!

At his incarnation God did not become man; he became God-man. The Son did not surrender his deity; he added humanity. Not just any humanity, but perfect humanity as originally intended before the fall. As fully human, Christ was subjected to human experiences such as hunger and thirst (Matt.4:2; John 19:28), weariness (Matt.8:24), pain (Matt. 27:33-35), temptation (Matt. 4:26), limited knowledge (Luke 2:52), and even death (Matt.27:50; Mark.15:37; Luke23:46; John19:30). However, throughout his life on earth Christ remained sinless (1Cor.5:21; Heb.4:15) not because he was unable to sin but rather, by submitting to the will of His father, he chose not to. Jesus was the perfect sinless savior who came to establish his unshakable kingdom (Heb.12:28).

The work of Christ can be divided into three offices: 1) Prophet, Jesus who has the “words of eternal life” (John 6:68) is God’s supreme revelation to man and is the master teacher, 2) Priest, Jesus is the High Priest (Heb.9) who made the once for all sacrifice for sins (Heb.9-10) and who maintains his priestly intercession continuously (Heb.7:25), 3) King, Jesus rightfully holds all authority and power and is identified as Lord of all. His earthly life began in humility, being born of a virgin named Mary with God Himself as his father (Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-28). As an infant he was consecrated to the Lord, according to the Law of Moses, and was heralded as the promised Christ and redeemer (Luke 1:21-32). As a juvenile, he was a great student of God’s word and began to understand his special place in all of creation (Luke 2:41-50). He humbled himself unto baptism as a means of fulfilling all righteousness and whereby the Father declared him publicly as His son (Matt.3:13). He validated this highly esteemed position by not succumbing to Satan’s temptation in the desert (Matt.4) and his earthly ministry immediately followed. Jesus was a great teacher, preacher, and leader. He worked many miracles, often in the presence of witnesses, to demonstrate his power, authority, and Lordship over creation. Jesus’

life and ministry all pointed to a particular purpose or mission - to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). This mission carried Jesus to a cross where he was humiliated, persecuted, and crucified for the sins of man. On the cross he voluntarily offered up himself as the perfect atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world (Heb.9-10). God made him who knew no sin to become sin so that we might be redeemed and become his righteousness (2Cor.5:21). Christ's death paid the penalty for our sins which we could not pay; he removed us from God's wrath by taking it upon himself (1John 2:2). On the cross Jesus purchased humanity back from slavery to sin and death; he set us free (John 8:36), and as a result we stand not guilty before the Lord. Through his blood, Christ mended the broken relationship that existed between sinful man and a holy God. By his death on the cross our sins are forgiven and we now have peace with God. Following the crucifixion Christ was buried in a borrowed tomb (Matt.27:60) and on the third day he was bodily raised from the dead (Matt.28:5-10; Mark16:4-7; Luke24:1-6; John20:1-9, 1Cor 15:20) whereby he officially triumphed over sin, death, and Satan (Col.2:13-15). Following the resurrection he dwelled among the people for forty days teaching them about the kingdom of God (Acts 1:3). Jesus then ascended into Heaven with the promise that he would one day return and reign as King (Acts 1:9-11). The ascension marks the triumphant end to Jesus' earthly ministry and makes way for the promised appearing of the Holy Spirit (John 16:7). Today Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father (Col. 3:1). He sustains his creation by his word of power (Heb.1:3), and he accomplishes the finished work of atonement (Heb.10:12). Jesus serves as our advocate (1John 2:1) and continues to intercede on our behalf (Heb.7:25) until the day of his triumphant return and millennial reign (Rev.20).