

The Doctrine of the Trinity



2nd Person of the Trinity: The Son

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February 2022

Who is God the Son?

The second Person of the Trinity is God the Son, specifically, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ. To this Person we primarily attribute the work of *redemption*. To “redeem” means to “buy back”. Because of Jesus’ perfect life and innocent death on the cross, He has paid for the sins of the world and bought us back from sin, death and the devil. The Son gets the longest section of the Apostle’s Creed because His nature and work is the most often attacked of the three Persons. When we look at passages like 1 Corinthians 3:11, *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ*, you can see why Satan works so hard to try and undermine the Gospel teachings of Christ. It’s for this reason that the Apostle’s Creed speaks so extensively and specifically about Jesus.

How can Jesus be God and Man?

One of the most, if not the most miraculous event, in human history was the birth of Jesus, which is also called the *Incarnation* (lit. *being in the flesh*). How this could take place is a mystery beyond what Scripture reveals in the Gospels (Luke 1-2 has the most comprehensive account). How can an unlimited God take limited human form? Logically, it would make sense to think that either Jesus was truly God and not truly man, or truly man but not truly God. And many false teachers hold to one of these schools of thought.

- What are some accounts in Scripture that illustrate for us Jesus' human nature? What are some accounts that display His divinity?
- Read Hebrews 2:14. Why did Jesus have to be true man? Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Why did Jesus have to be true God?

How can we know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?

The Messiah was foretold throughout the Old Testament as the One whom God would send to bring salvation to sinful mankind. But how can we be sure that Jesus was that Savior? After all, many people throughout history have claimed to be the Messiah and/or the Christ. What's to say that we shouldn't still be on the lookout for our Savior? There are many, many ways to answer these questions because Scripture has made it abundantly clear to us that Jesus is the Son of God. To name a few, we can be sure that Jesus is the Christ because of Messianic prophecies, because of Jesus' own words, and because of His actions.

- There are 68 Messianic prophecies that are specifically referenced in the Gospel accounts which Jesus fulfilled. Read Isaiah 7:14, Zechariah 11:12-13, and Psalm 34:20. How did Jesus fulfill each of these?

- There are some who say that Jesus never claimed to be God. Read John 8:58-59, John 10:30-31, and Mark 14:61-64. Is Jesus being unclear in these accounts? What incentive would there have been for Jesus to deny being God?
- Read Mark 2:8-12. Jesus performed many miracles during His earthly ministry, and three just in these short verses. How did these miracles show Jesus' divine power as God?

What are the three offices of Christ?

In Scripture, Jesus is given the title Messiah (OT) and Christ (NT). Both of these titles mean "Anointed One" in their respective languages. But anointed to what? This is where the three offices of Christ come in. In the Old and the New Testament, the Anointed One is described as working on our behalf as our Prophet (Deut. 18:15), our Priest (Heb. 3:1), and our King (Isa. 9:6-7). As our Prophet, Christ has proclaimed the Gospel of reconciliation in His earthly ministry and continues to proclaim it through His Word. As our Priest, He has offered himself as the one and final sacrifice for all sin. As our King, He has established His kingdom of grace (the Holy Christian Church), and rules in the hearts of all believers.

- Which of Christ's offices is discredited when the inerrancy of Scripture is questioned? Which office is discredited by teaching work-righteousness? Which office is discredited when we give Christ's authority to a human being (the Pope for Catholics, the Prophet for Mormons, etc.)?

- In order for Christ to have been the Anointed One, Someone must have done the Anointing. Read Act 2:36 and 10:36-38. Who Anointed Jesus? How does this factor into our understanding of the Trinity?

How should we pray to the Son?

Knowing what we know from Scripture about Jesus' redemptive work on our behalf and His continued work as our Prophet, Priest, and King, there are a great many things that we might petition our Lord for. Indeed, we are instructed in several places that we ought to always pray in Jesus' name (John 14:13; 16:23). It is only because Jesus has made us acceptable in God's sight by redeeming us from sin and cleansing us in His blood that we can approach the throne of God confident that our prayers are heard and answered.

- The Apostles John and Paul both pray to Jesus specifically in Revelation 22:20 and 1 Corinthians 16:22, respectively. What did they pray for? Should we also pray for this?

- There are many people who asked Jesus for help and deliverance throughout His earthly ministry. Can you think of some of the things they asked for and how Jesus responded? What can we take away from these accounts?