

Part 4. Jesus our Redeemer

Lesson 1: Christology – The Doctrine of Christ

Lesson Summary

Christology is the study of the person and work of Jesus Christ—the central figure of Christianity and the anchor of our salvation (Matt. 22:42). Scripture presents Him as fully God (Col. 2:9) and fully man (Heb. 2:17), the Word made flesh who dwelt among us (John 1:1, 14). Church history has defended these truths against heresies like Arianism, Docetism, and Nestorianism, with councils affirming that Jesus is both truly God and truly man, one person with two natures (Chalcedon, AD 451). Key themes of Christology include the **Incarnation** (Phil. 2:6–8), the **Trinity** (Matt. 28:19; John 10:30), the **Atonement** (Isa. 53:5–6; 2 Cor. 5:21), and the **Resurrection and Ascension** (Rom. 1:4; Acts 1:9–11). To deny these truths is to deny the gospel itself (2 John 1:9; Acts 4:12). Christology is more than theology—it is worship, shaping how we see Jesus as Savior, Lord, and King, the Alpha and Omega who reigns forever (Heb. 1:3; Rev. 22:13).

Key Takeaways

- **Christology asks:** Who is Jesus? What did He accomplish? How does He relate to God and humanity?
- **Scriptural truths:** Jesus is fully God (Col. 2:9), fully man (Heb. 2:17), sinless (Heb. 4:15), Savior (Acts 4:12), and Lord (Phil. 2:9–11).
- **Historical defense:** Nicaea (AD 325) affirmed Christ's deity; Chalcedon (AD 451) affirmed His two natures in one person.
- **Incarnation:** God became flesh in Christ (John 1:14; Heb. 1:1–3).
- **Trinity:** Christ is the eternal Son, one with the Father and Spirit (Matt. 28:19; John 10:30).
- **Atonement:** Jesus' death was substitutionary, bearing sin and satisfying divine justice (Isa. 53:5–6; 2 Cor. 5:21).
- **Resurrection & Ascension:** Christ conquered death, reigns as Lord, and intercedes for believers (Rom. 1:4; Acts 1:9–11; Heb. 7:25).
- **Doctrine of Christ:** Non-negotiable truths that define Christianity and guard the gospel (2 John 1:9).

Questions & Answers

1. **Q:** What is Christology?
A: The study of the person, nature, and work of Jesus Christ—who He is and what He has done.
2. **Q:** How do we know Jesus is both God and man?
A: Scripture affirms His deity (Col. 2:9) and humanity (Heb. 2:17); councils defended these truths against heresies.
3. **Q:** What heresies threatened early Christology?
A: Arianism (denied His deity), Docetism (denied His humanity), and Nestorianism (divided His person).
4. **Q:** Why is the Incarnation essential?
A: Because the eternal Son became flesh to redeem humanity (John 1:14; Phil. 2:6–8).

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5. **Q:** What is the significance of the Atonement?

A: Jesus bore our sins, satisfying God's justice and reconciling us to Him (Isa. 53:5–6; 2 Cor. 5:21).

6. **Q:** How does the Resurrection affirm Christ's identity?

A: It proves His divine Sonship and victory over death (Rom. 1:4).

7. **Q:** What does Scripture warn about the doctrine of Christ?

A: Whoever does not abide in it does not have God (2 John 1:9).

“Christology is not merely a doctrine to study—it is a call to behold Jesus as Savior, Lord, and King, the center of all things.”