

Renewed Unity Christology

We who believe in Jesus are called Christians. This means we are more than fans of Jesus' teaching; it means that we believe Him to be the Christ and we are His disciples. It is important to be unified on what it means that Jesus is the Christ.

Topic: Christology is the study of the nature and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the God-man. He is both fully divine and fully human. He is God the Son, the Second person of the Trinity (Yahweh), and the eternal Son of God the Father. More than that, Jesus is the divine Logos—who spoke creation into existence—made flesh. This importantly describes the doctrine of the Incarnation. Christ is eternal and uncreated—only His body was created as noted by the virgin conception/birth. Jesus is morally impeccable—He is sinless, yet was tempted in all ways we are. His very name points to both His nature and to His work. “Jesus” means *Yahweh Saves*. Jesus saves His people from their sins through His atoning death and resurrection. We are saved through belief in Him. He fulfills and occupies the roles of Prophet, Priest, & King. In fact, the word “Christ” means *Anointed One*. Prophets, priests, and kings were anointed when called to serve.

- How does Jesus serve as Prophet? (see Deuteronomy 18:15 and Acts 7:37-38, 51-53)
- How does Jesus serve as Priest? (see 1 Timothy 2:5 and Hebrews 4-10, especially 4:14-16)
- How does Jesus serve as our King? (see Luke 1:32-33 and Revelation 19:16)
- How did people in the gospels misunderstand His kingdom/kingship?

Association: What about you? Who do you say that Jesus is? Some people have a hard time affirming that Jesus is God because they think of Jesus (primarily/exclusively) as the Son of God, where “God” is Jesus’ Father so Jesus His Son must be something less. This is often the case when the word “God” is identified as the Father, not at the Trinity. God necessarily is triune.

- Do you confidently and comfortably affirm that Jesus is God? If not, why not?
- Do you ever feel like we privilege Jesus’ position too much? Too little?
- When did you come to the realization that Jesus is actually part of the very nature of God?
- When did you come to realize that Jesus was the agent of creation?
- Which of His three anointed offices—Prophet, Priest, King—do you most associate with Jesus?

Guidance: Properly emphasizing Jesus, His nature, and His work does not diminish the Father or the Spirit. Jesus is the means by which Yahweh saves us. It was the Father’s will that His Son became human to save humanity. It is the Spirit who indwells us, reminding us of the words, life, and love of Christ, leading us to grow in Christlikeness. The Father sent Jesus and the Spirit points to Jesus. We do not need to worry about over emphasizing Christ!

- How do you keep Jesus in perspective when not considering just the gospels of the New Testament?
- How can we see Jesus in creation itself?
- How do we see Jesus in the Old Testament? (Consider Melchizedek—see Heb. 5-7, Psalm 110, and Gen. 14:28-20; consider also references to *the* angel of Yahweh in Genesis 22, Exodus 3, Judges 6)
- What do you recommend Christians do to keep Jesus top of mind? Wear a cross necklace? Get a tattoo? Hang Jesus art in your house? Something else?
- Together, pray to Jesus, asking Him to be exalted in our lives.