

## Christology

### What is Christology

Study of the person of Christ, who He is in His Essence, and His work.

#### I. The Essence of Christ

##### a. Son of God

###### i. Questions:

1. Is the Son of God eternal?
2. Did the Son of God have a beginning before the creation?
  - a. Psalm 2 – Begotten Son of God – When was the Son Begotten
  - b. Arian Heresy
  - c. Nicene Creed
3. Is the Son of God one with God or similar to God?
4. Was Joseph the physical father of Jesus?
5. Is the Son of God a mixture of Divine and Human natures?

##### b. Son of Man

###### i. Questions

1. Was Christ only divine and only appeared as a human?
2. Did Christ have a human soul or was it 'replaced' by the divine Logos?
3. Were there actually two persons in one body?
4. Were the divine and human natures mixed or remain pure?
  - a. Eutychianism Heresy
  - b. Chalcedonian Creed
  - c. Orthodoxy

##### c. The Self-Emptying of Christ

###### i. A look at Philippians 2:5-11

###### ii. What did His emptying mean?

1. Emptying of His Preincarnate Position
2. Maintaining His Preincarnate Person

###### iii. Some Heresies from misunderstanding?

1. Christ Surrendered Some or all of His Attributes
2. Christ Appeared as a man by Disguising His Deity

##### d. The Sinlessness of Christ – Impeccable and peccable

###### i. Was Christ Sinless?

###### ii. Could Christ have sinned but didn't?

###### iii. The results of Christ's Testing

## The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

<https://reformed.org/documents/index.html?mainframe=https://reformed.org/documents/nicene.html>

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## The Definition of the

### Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D)

Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting also of a reasonable soul and body; of one substance with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin; as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards his manhood begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin, the God-bearer; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of him, and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the creed of the fathers has handed down to us.

<https://reformed.org/documents/index.html>

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How does the knowledge of Christ's identity and essence help us in our Daily Lives?

Fear – redirects and casts out our fears

1. Take 5 minutes to write down the fears you struggle with every week
2. Son of God – How does the understanding of Christ's divinity affect your fears?
3. Son of Man – How does the understanding of Christ's humanity affect your fears?
4. Self-Emptying of Christ – What does Christ's motive for emptying himself of his Preincarnate Position do for our confidence in Him

# Eutychianism

**Eutychianism** was an early [heresy](#) which maintained that Jesus Christ was of one nature only.

The heresy was named after *Eutyches* of Constantinople, who tried in the year 433 to make the 12 Anathemas of *Cyril of Alexandria* the standard of orthodoxy and do away with the "inspired man" Christology of Antioch. Another goal was to make Alexandria, instead of Constantinople, the second most powerful see in Christendom (next to Rome).

The view of Eutyches was that Christ had only one nature - a confused mixture of human and divine. Eutychianism is also known as [monophysitism](#) from *monos* (single) and *physis* (nature). It assumes that Christ can have only one nature, which is a mixture of divine nature and human natures, such that the human becomes divine and the divine human. This confuses both Christ's true humanity and his true deity. The view was officially deemed heresy by the [Council of Chalcedon](#) in 451 CE.

<https://www.theopedia.com/eutychianism>

# Arianism

**Arianism** is an ancient [heresy](#) which denies the [divinity of Jesus Christ](#).

## Ancient Arianism

As with many of the classical heresies, Arianism emerged from the struggle to reach a consensus on the [Trinity](#). It is named after [Arius](#), whose main concern was that it did not seem fitting that God should have a son. His solution, which became known as Arianism, was to propose that the Son (Jesus) was somewhere between God and man.

"Such is the genuine doctrine of Arius. Using Greek terms, it denies that the Son is of one essence, nature, or substance with God; He is not consubstantial (homoousios) with the Father, and therefore not like Him, or equal in dignity, or co-eternal, or within the real sphere of Deity." [\[1\]](#)

## Modern Arianism

Modern Arianism shares the ancient belief that Jesus was not (and thus *is* not) divine, but goes much further — reducing Jesus to "just a guy". Influenced perhaps by [Naturalism](#) and Materialism, and thus uncomfortable with any supernatural elements, modern Arianism advocates that Jesus was a good and wise man, perhaps even a prophet, but certainly not divine.

It could be argued that such an extreme view has gone beyond heresy to [apostasy](#), thus changing Arianism from a church problem to a mission problem. The views are so widely taught and embraced among liberal churches and seminaries, however, that it is probably unrealistic to dismiss them so easily.

[N.T. Wright](#) describes one specific incarnation of modern Arianism as five myths which together make up a "[Liberal Myth of Christian Origins](#)." [2]

<https://www.theopedia.com/arianism>