

Christology

Bible Institute at Gulf Coast Baptist Church Spring 2021

Christ: The Son

Christ: The Importance of His Sonship

It is common for the reader of scripture to miss out on the importance of the term, the Son, as used of Christ in the Gospels. There are challenges to translating an ancient text in a foreign language some 2,000 years after its writing. Because of the evolving nature of definitions, many modern English readers fail to truly appreciate many of the valuable truths that God conveyed by calling Christ, the Son.

Son: Defining the Terms

There are two common Greek words found in the New Testament that are translated “son” or “sons”. The first word is *teknon*, meaning, “a child; the emphasis being on the birth” (Vine’s). *Teknon* can be understood as a “born-one”, an individual’s physical progeny.

The second term translated “son” is *huios*. “This word *huios* — son — expressive of the distinctive position and dignity which a son has in a household. ... ‘*huios*’ directs the mind to a position given or recognised and the dignities resulting from it.” (*The Bible Treasury: Vol. 12*). It emphasizes the ideas of relationship, position within a family, and the privileges associated with that position. So when Christ is referred to as the *Huios* of God, the authors are intending to communicate an idea much greater than simply saying that He is God’s child.

An example of how *huios* was understood in the ancient world is found in Galatians 4:1-4. In this passage, Paul references the common practice in the Greco-Roman, and Hebrew cultures at that time, in which children, having reached a certain age were granted “sonship” within a family. This rite of passage bestowed position and privilege to those sons.

This lesson will look at three distinct titles, each including the word *huios*, conferred on Christ during his earthly ministry: The Son of David, The Son of Man, and The Son of God.

Christ: The Son of David – The King of the Jews

- A. Physical lineage – In Christ’s humanity, he physically descended from King David through his mother, Mary
 - a. Mt. 1:1 – the son of David (and Abraham)
 - b. Lu. 3:28-38 – the son of David (through the line of Nathan)
 - c. Mt. 2:2 – Christ possessed the required familial right to the throne of David
- B. Prophetic Fulfillment – 2 Samuel 7:12-13
 - a. Lu. 1:32 – prophesied to take the throne
 - b. Lu. 1:33 – the Son of David would reign into the age
- C. The Son of David was not just any child (Divinity) – Mk. 12:35-37
- D. The Son of David possessed supernatural abilities
 - a. OT – Isa. 11:1-4 (wisdom/preaching); 61:1-3 (healing)
 - b. NT – Mt. 9:27; 12:23; Mk. 10:48
 - i. Demons – Mt. 15:22
 - ii. Blindness – Mt. 20:30
- E. The Son of David was worshipped and expected to deliver Israel from their enemies – “Hosanna!” – Mt. 21:9, 15

Summary: The Son of David relates to Christ as the prophesied and future King of Israel. His reign will begin at the onset of the Millennial Kingdom at the completion of the Tribulation. In His humanity, Christ literally fulfills requirements of being one that came from the physical line of David and possesses the right to rule the nation.

Christ: The Son of Man – “Real or True Humanity”

- A. Incarnation
 - a. Christ added a human nature to His person
 - b. Christ experienced the entire gamut of humanity: emotions, fatigue, pain, hunger, rejection, physical and mental limitations, etc.
- B. The Title refers to His Human Experience
 - a. Betrayal and suffering – Mt. 17:12, 22; Mk. 9:12, 31; Jo. 3:14
 - b. His physical body spent 3 days in the grave – Mt. 12:40
 - c. Physical limitations – Lu. 9:53 (need for shelter); Mt. 11:19 (ate and drank)
- C. The Title refers to the Unique Authority He received from God
 - a. He came to save and minister – Mk. 10:45; Mt. 18:11, 20:28
 - b. He had the authority to forgive sins – Lu. 5:24; Mk. 2:10
 - c. He was the Lord of the Sabbath – Lu. 5:24; Mk. 2:10
- D. The Title refers to His Future Reign in His Glorified Humanity
 - a. No man knows the time of His return – Lu. 12:40
 - b. Returning with angels to sit on His throne – Mt. 25:31, Mt. 26:64
 - c. Coming in glory and dispenses rewards – Mt. 16:27
 - d. All tribes will mourn upon His return – Mt. 24:30 (*see Zechariah*)
 - e. Reign on earth in the regeneration – Mt. 19:28
 - f. Sends forth angels – Mt. 13:41; Jo. 1:51
 - g. Will execute judgment – Jo. 5:27
- E. The Son of Man’s Suffering leads to knowledge that Christ is God – Jo. 13:31, 17:1

The BIG Question in the Gospels

“*Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, Am?*” – Mt. 16:13

An individual’s eternal destiny depended upon the right answer to this question

Simon Peter’s response: “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God!*”

Peter, speaking on behalf of the disciples (except Judas Iscariot), stated their confidence that the Jewish carpenter whom they had followed, heard teach, and had witnessed perform miracles was not some prophet or great man, but God Himself. God revealed to Peter, and others, during Christ’s earthly ministry that although He was fully man He was also fully and completely God.

Christ: The Son of God – The One Who Acts on Behalf of the Father

- A. The Title: The Son of God
 - a. Christ called Himself the Son of God
 - i. Christ claimed to be The Son of God – Jo. 10:36
 - ii. Christ never denied His Claims - Lu. 22:70-71; Mt. 26:64
 - b. The Father called Christ His Son
 - i. Baptism – Mt. 3:17; Lu. 3:22
 - ii. Transfiguration – Lu. 9:35
 - c. Satan attempted to discredit Christ as The Son of God – Lu. 4:3

- d. Demonic spirits recognized Christ as The Son of God
 - i. Spirits spoke of their future judgment – Mt. 8:29
 - ii. Demonic spirits were exorcised – Lu. 4:41
 - iii. The demonic spirits in the mad man of Gadera – Lu. 8:28; Mk. 5:7
- B. The Son's Relationship to the Father – Mt. 21:33-41; Heb. 1
 - a. The Son possessed a unique relationship to God the Father
 - i. The Father loved the Son – Jo. 3:35, 5:20
 - ii. Only the Son had an experiential knowledge of the Father – Mt. 11:27; Lu. 10:22
 - b. The Son possessed equal authority with the Father
 - i. The Father delivered all things into His hands – Mt. 11:27
 - ii. The Son had power to give life like the Father – Jo. 5:21
 - iii. The Son had the authority and ability to work on behalf of the Father
 - 1. The Son was purposefully sent to the world – Jo. 5:27
 - a. The Son came to do the desirous will of the Father – Jo. 5:30, 6:38
 - 2. The Son did the works of the Father – Jo. 10:37-38, 14:10
 - a. Water into wine at Cana
 - b. Healed the sick of the palsy
 - c. Healed the ruler's daughter
 - d. Healed the blind man
 - e. Cast out demons
 - f. Healed the woman with the issue of blood
 - iv. The Son had the authority to speak on behalf of the Father – Jo. 12:49, 14:10, 15:15
 - c. The Son was deserving of honor equal to the Father – Jo. 5:23
- C. Belief in Jesus as the Son of God was the object of salvation in the Gospels – Jo. 3:35-36, 6:40
 - a. Some of the disciples confessed that they believed that Christ was the Son of God
 - i. John – Jo. 1:34
 - ii. Nathaniel – Jo. 1:49
 - iii. Peter – Jo. 6:69
 - iv. The blind man – Jo. 9:35
 - v. Martha – Jo. 11:27
 - b. QUESTION: Did the centurion at the cross get saved? – Mk. 15:39

Summary: “Jesus Christ is God’s special Son, because He alone is God, and He knows, shares glory, shares honor and shares life with the Father. He isn’t a descendant of God as an earthly son, but is son as one who shares equally with the Father and therefore is privileged to fully represent all that is true of God.” – *The Son*, pg. 33