

III. Christmas-Past to Christmas-Future in the Present

A. Was it necessary for the Logos to become incarnate?

B. It was necessary for a God-man to save us from our sins.

1. The Necessity of Christ's Humanity
2. The Necessity of Christ's Deity

C. To reveal God to man (Jn. 1:18; 14:9; Heb. 1:3)

D. To provide an example (Phil. 2:5-8; 1 Pet. 2:21)

E. To be a merciful & faithful High Priest (Heb. 2:17-18; 4:14-16; 5:1-10)

F. To sympathize with us (Heb. 4:15)

G. Die as a propitiatory sacrifice for sin (Mk. 10:45; Heb. 2:9; 9:26, 28; 10:9-10; 1 Jn. 3:5)

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

Icebreaker: Do you have any New Year's resolutions? If so, share.

1. Discuss the four points of orthodox Christology: (1) Christ is fully and completely God, (2) Christ is fully and completely human, (3) the divine and human natures of Jesus are distinct and completely united in one person (i.e., the doctrine of the hypostatic union), and (4) the virgin conception/birth of Jesus. Why are each of these necessary for us and for our salvation?
2. In this sermon we reflected on the life and limitations of Jesus beyond His birth. Discuss how the limited experiences of His life practically speak to ours.
3. How does the *Munus Triplex* of Jesus practically inform us for life, holiness, and a future hope in the face of despair and temptation? Discuss
4. How does the current headship of Christ impact the way we 'do-church' as Christians? How does His future coming impact our mission and worship?
5. Discuss what you learned in this series on Christology. How did the series impact your worship of Christ this Christmas?
6. How can we pray for you? Share.

GROWING PAINS AND PAROUSIA

Christmas Christology Part 5

Del Rey Church, Pastor Matt Jones, PhD

I. Christmas-Past Biblical Data (Pre Manger to Mary)

A. Christology (*Christ* [Jesus Christ] – *ology* [study of])¹

B. Presuppositions to our study (Bible and Trinity)

C. Christmas requires the Trinity

Father: The initiation of the Christmas plan (Acts 2:30; Rom. 8:3; Gal. 4:4)

Son: Condescension and execution in relation to the plan (Jn. 1:14; Phil. 2:7)

Holy Spirit: Actualized the plan through the virgin conception (Mt.1:20; Lk. 1:35).

D. Essential Christmas Christology

1. Christ is fully and completely God [Sermon 1] ←DIVINE NATURE

- a. Jesus created the entire universe, visible and invisible (See John 1:1-3; Col. 1: 16-17; Heb. 1:1, supra, cf. Is. 44:24)
- b. General Providence of the Universe is ascribed to Jesus (Heb. 1:3)
- c. Jesus forgave sins. (Matt. 9:5-8)
- d. Jesus gives eternal life. (John 10:27-29)

2. Christ is fully and completely human [Sermon 2] ←HUMAN NATURE

- a. He had to be of the Davidic Line to make a rightful claim to the throne of Israel (cf. Kingly Office).
- b. The Bible describes Christ's physical body:
 1. Human Birth (Rom. 1:3; Gal. 4:4)
 2. Human form/flesh and blood (Matt. 26:28; Jn. 1:14; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 2:14; 1 Jn. 4:2)
 3. Subject to True Physical Growth (Lk. 2:52)
 4. Empirical Encounters: Heard, Seen, Handled (1 Jn. 1:1)

¹ In Greek it's *christou logos* (χριστοῦ λόγος) literally "a word/discourse about Christ".

c. The Bible describes Christ's immaterial humanity:

1. Soul

- (a) Matt. 26:38: My soul is deeply grieved...
- (b) Matt. 10:28: ...those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul;
- (c) Rev. 6:9: I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain...

2. Spirit

- (a) Luke 8:55: And her spirit returned, and she rose immediately
- (b) Acts 7:59: "Lord Jesus, Receive my spirit."
- (c) Jas. 2:26: For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.
- (d) Matt. 27:50: And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit.
- (e) Mk. 2:8: And immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves...
- (f) Luke 23:46: ...into Thy hands I commit My spirit.

3. The divine and human natures of Jesus are distinct and completely united in one person [Sermon 3]. ←HYPOSTATIC UNION

4. The virgin conception/birth of Jesus [Sermon 4].

- a. She is "theotokos" according to Jesus' humanity.
- b. She is "God-receiving" (*theodoxos*).
- c. She is "man-bearing" (*anthropotokos*).
- d. She is "Christ-bearing" (*Christotokos*).

II. Post Christmas Biblical Data (From Manger to Messiah and More)

A. The Wonder Years (Luke 2)

B. Life and Limitations

- 1. Jesus grew in wisdom (Lk. 2:40)
- 2. Hunger (Matt. 4:2)
- 3. Thirst (Jn. 4:6-7; 19:28)
- 4. Tired (Matt. 8:24; Jn. 4:6)

5. Sorrow (Lk. 19:41; Jn. 11:35; Heb. 5:7; cf. Isa. 53:3)

6. Unawareness of return (Matt. 24:36)

7. Jesus was astonished

- (a) Mk. 6:6: Amazed at His own hometown's lack of faith
- (b) Mt. 8:10; Lk. 7:9: Astonished at the centurion's faith

C. The Innocent Life and Impeccability Jesus

Innocence (Matt. 27:4, 19, 24; Lk. 23:15, 41, 47; Jn. 18:38; 19:4,6; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb.7:26; 1 Pet.1:18-19, 2:22 (Isaiah 53:9); 1 John 3:5)

Impeccability (James 1:13, Heb 4:15, 13:8)

"The doctrine of impeccability states that Christ was not only sinless, he was unable to sin (*non posse peccare*). As the incarnate Son of God, Christ faced real temptations, but these temptations did not arise in Christ due to sinful desires. Christ was not only able to overcome temptation, he was unable to be overcome by it" (Shedd, *Dogmatic Theology*, 659).

D. The Sufferings and Mission of Jesus (Mk. 10:45, Mt. 28:18–20)

E. The Vicarious Death of Jesus (Is.53; 1 Cor.15:3; 2 Cor.5:21)

F. The Victorious Resurrection of Jesus (John 11:25, 1 Cor. 15)

G. The *Munus Triplex* of Jesus

- 1. Past: Prophet (*munus propheticum*)
- 2. Present: Priest (*munus sacerdotale*)
- 3. Future: King (*munus regium*)

H. The Current Headship of Christ and His Future Return

Current Reign (Ephesians 1:22, 5:23; Colossians 1:18, 2:10).

Coming Return (Matt.16:27, 24-25; Mk.13; Lk.21; Jn.14; Acts 1:10-11; 1 Cor. 15; Col. 3:10; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; 2 Tim. 4:8; 2 Pet. 3:10, 5:4; Heb. 9:28; Jude 14-15; Rev.19-21).