



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THE WORD

Basic Theology ∞ Doctrine of Christ ∞

He is declared, in the most express manner possible, to be all that God is, to possess the whole fullness of attributes which make God, God.

B. B. Warfield

1. The Humanity of Christ

- A. He had a **human birth** - Matthew 18:18-23 and 2:11. Luke 1:30-33 and Galatians 4:4. He is the *Seed of David* in Romans 1:3 and Matthew 1:1. He is the *Seed of the Woman* in Genesis 3:15. He was recognized as the *Son of David* in Matthew 15:22. He was the *Word made Flesh* John 1:14.
- B. He had **human ancestry** - The genealogy of Christ is traced back to David and Adam in Luke's gospel through his mother Mary and back to David and Abraham in Matthew's Gospel through His father Joseph in Matthew 1:17.
- C. He had **human names and titles** - He was called Jesus, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham, and Son of Man over 80 times in the New Testament. He was called the last Adam.
- D. He had a **complete human nature** - He was a complete man having spirit, soul and body. He had a human spirit in Luke 23:46 and Mark 2:8. He had a soul in Matthew 26:38 and he had a human body of flesh, bones and blood (Hebrews 2:14).

- E. He experienced **human development** - He grew as a child in Luke 2:40. He increased in wisdom and stature in Luke 2:52. He worked hard as a man following Joseph's trade as a carpenter in Mark 6:3. He had human limitations in Hebrews 2:10. He experienced human temptations in Matthew 4:1-11.
- F. He had **sinless infirmities of human nature** - He grew weary in John 4:6. He had normal appetites and grew hungry in Matthew 4:2. He was also thirsty in John 4:7 and enjoyed natural sleep in Matthew 8:24. He was limited in human knowledge in Mark 11:13, 13:32 and He groaned in Himself and He wept.
- G. He suffered **human death** - 1 Peter 2:24 - he suffered the wages of sin, which is death.

2. The Sinlessness of Christ

Was Christ absolutely sinless? Did or could He sin if He had wanted to? Did He overcome sin the same way we might try to? These are the questions theologians ask about Christ's sinless nature.

- A. **Sinful Flesh Theory** - This theory holds that Christ had sinful flesh and He had to overcome sin by the power of the Holy Spirit just as all believers do. This is a misunderstanding of Romans 8:3.
- B. **Sinful Potential Theory** - This theory holds that Christ could have sinned but would not sin. The fact that Christ was tempted proved He could have sinned, otherwise it would not have been something to overcome.
- C. **Sinless Perfection Theory** - This says that Christ was incapable of sinning because of who He is. Was it possible for Christ to sin or not to sin? It should be kept in mind that whether Christ could or could not have sinned, the fact remains He did not sin. Thus, He alone can be the Savior the World.

3. Present Day Ministry of Jesus Christ

- A. Savior: Roman 10:9-10, 13; Hebrews 7:25
- B. Liberator: John 8:31-32, 36; Galatians 5:1
- C. Healer: 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5
- D. Joy: John 15:11; 16:24; 1John 1:4
- E. Peace: Romans 5:1; John 14:27
- F. Love: John 15:12-13
- G. Example of how to live: 1 Peter 2:21
- H. High Priest: Hebrews 4:15-16
- I. Intercessor: Romans 8:34
- J. Cleanses from sin: 1 John 1:7
- K. Our righteousness: 2 Corinthians 5:17 & 21
- L. Our victory: 1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 2:14
- M. Makes us an heir of the Father: Romans 8:17
- N. Freedom from condemnation: Romans 8:1
- O. Our justification: Romans 4:25; Galatians 2:16
- P. Our mediator: Hebrews 9:15
- Q. Our advocate: 1 John 2:1
- R. He is the Way, the Truth, the Life: John 14:6
- S. He is wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption: 1 Corinthians 1:30

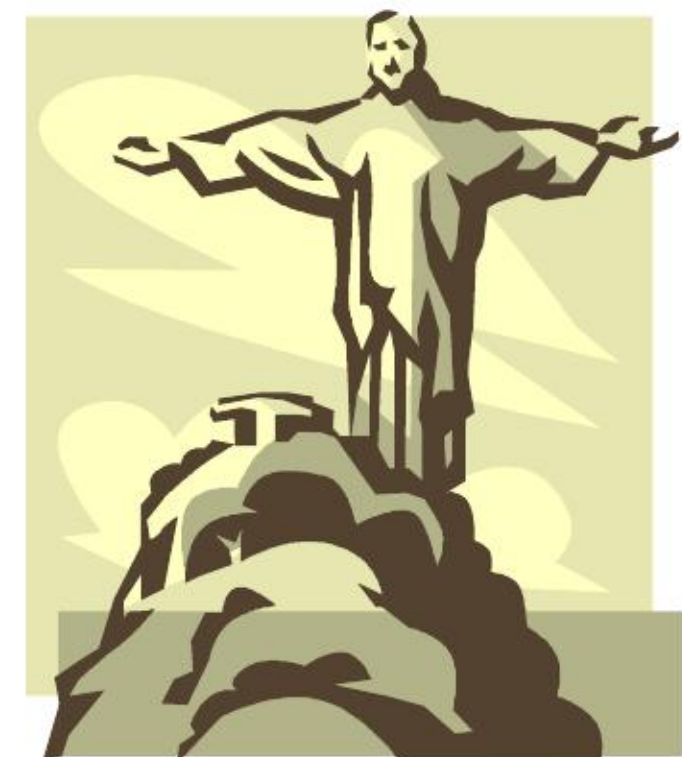


4. The Six Things God Did for Christ

- A. He raised Him from the dead (Ephesians 1:20; 1 Corinthians 15:1-23; see note on John 21:14).
- B. He exalted Him at His own right hand (Ephesians 1:20; Psalm 110:1,5; Matthew 26:64; Mark 16:19; Acts 2:33-34; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Philippians. 2:9-11; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3,13; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22).
- C. He gave Him authority over all powers, good and evil, under Himself (Ephesians 1:21; 3:10; 6:12; Romans 8:38; Philippians. 2:9-11; Colossians 1:15-18; 2:10-17; 1 Peter 3:22; Revelation 1:1,7,18; 11:15; 19:11-20:10).
- D. He gave Him a name above every name except God the Father (Ephesians 1:21; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Philippians. 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:4).
- E. He put all things under His feet (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:16-18; 2:10-17; Hebrews 2:5-18; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28).
- F. He gave Him headship of the church (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18, 24; 2 Corinthians 11:3).

5. The Headship of Christ

- A. All principality (Eph. 1:21; Col. 2:10)
- B. All power (Eph. 1:21; Col. 2:10)
- C. All might (Eph. 1:21)
- D. Dominion (Eph. 1:21; Col. 1:16-18)
- E. Every name (Eph. 1:21; Philippians 2:9; Heb. 1:4)
- F. This world (Eph. 1:21)
- G. The world to come (Eph. 1:21)
- H. All things (Eph. 1:22; Heb. 2:8-9)
- I. The church (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23-31; Col. 1:18,24; 2:19)
- J. Every person (1Cor. 11:3)



K. Of the corner (Mt. 21:42; Luke. 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1Pet. 2:7)

L. The people (Isa. 55:4).

M. Over all (Rom. 9:5; Col. 3:11)

N. His own house (Heb. 3:6)

6. Hypostatic Union

The hypostatic union may be defined as *“the second person, the pre-incarnate Christ came and took to Himself a human nature and remains forever undiminished Deity and true humanity united in one person forever.”* When Christ came, a Person came – not just a nature. He took on an additional nature; a human nature. He did not simply dwell in a human person. The result of the union of the two natures is the anthropic Person (the God-man).

7. The Kenosis of Christ

The Greek term for kenosis is *kenoo*, (κενω) which means to empty, to make vain or void.

A. It is also translated:

1. "Make void" (Romans 4:14; 1 Corinthians 9:15)
2. "Make of none effect" (1 Corinthians 1:17)
3. "Be in vain" (2 Corinthians 9:3)
4. "Make of no reputation" (Philippians 2:7)

B. The essential idea is that of bringing to emptiness, vanity, or nothingness.

1. As we understand this term in reference to Christ, it refers to the time He willingly lays aside his rank and dignity, and became as an ordinary human being, assuming a humbler rank and station.
2. Humanity lost the authority given in the Garden of Eden (Adam and Eve). Humanity must regain it, in the life, death, burial, and resurrection (Christ Jesus).

3. Philippians 2:7 says "He emptied Himself."

C. Christ emptied Himself of the following:

1. *Equality with God* (Phil. 2:6-7; John 14:28; 1 Cor. 11:3)
2. *God-form or God-body, the spirit body that He lived in from eternity, to take human form* (Phil. 2:6-8; Phil. 3:21; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14; Luke 24:37-40; Zech.13:6; Galatians 4:4; Romans 8:3).
3. *Immortality of body* (1 Cor. 15:3; Psalm 16:10; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18)
4. *The glory that He had with the Father before the world was* (John 12:23; John 17:5; Matthew 16:27; Phil. 2:5-11)
5. *His authority in heaven and in earth, which was given back to Him after the resurrection* (Matthew 28:18; Phil. 2:9-11; Ephes. 1:20-23; 1 Peter 3:22)
6. *His divine attributes and outward powers that He had with the Father from eternity. He had no power to do miracles until He received the Holy Spirit in all fullness* (John 2:11; John 3:34; Isaiah 11:1-2; Isaiah 42:1-7; Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 3:21-22; Luke 4:16-21; Matthew 12:28; Acts 10:38). He could do nothing of Himself in all His earthly life. He attributed all His works, doctrines, powers, etc. to the Father through the anointing of the Holy Spirit (note, John 8:28). This is proved by the following facts in Scripture:
 - a. He was limited to the status of a man (Phil. 2:6-8; Heb. 2:14-18; Heb. 5:8-9).
 - b. He was God's agent using God's power of attorney (John 8:28; Acts 10:38).
 - c. He was our example that we should walk in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).
 - d. The temptations prove that He was limited as a man so that He could overcome as a man and not as God (Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 5:7-9).

- e. Isaiah speaks of the Messiah being born without knowledge enough to know to refuse the evil and choose the good (Isaiah 7:14-16).
- f. Isaiah speaks of the Messiah being limited as an ordinary baby, showing that God would give Him the spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2; 53:1-12).

D. At no point did Jesus surrender His divine nature.

- 1. He was God not only from all eternity (Micah 5:1-2; John 1:1-2; Hebrews 1:8; Rev. 1:8-11), but also God manifest in flesh during His life on earth (Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1-2,14; 1 Tim. 3:16).

8. Seven Steps in His Exaltation: Philippians 2:9

- 1. God highly exalted Him (Phil. 2:9; Ephes. 1:21).
- 2. God gave Him a name above all (Phil. 2:9).
- 3. At the mere mention of His name, every knee must bow (Phil. 2:10).
- 4. Everything in heaven must bow (Phil. 2:10).
- 5. Everything in earth must bow (Phil. 2:10).
- 6. Everything under the earth must bow (Phil. 2:10).
- 7. Every tongue confess His Lordship to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:11).