



(CHRISTOLOGY) Pt. 1 (Brandon Clack Commentary)

(ANSWER KEY)

THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS CHRIST

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1. Christology is simply the **study of Christ.**

The Greek word for Christ is 'messiah,' which means the Anointed One. Because Jesus Christ is the Anointed One, God's Firstborn, when we receive Jesus Christ at salvation, it then qualifies us to be anointed by God, as Christ is. **(Acts 10:38)**

As God anointed Christ—His firstborn—when we are saved, we become anointed as His brothers and sisters.

In ancient biblical times, the people had their own ideas of who and how the Messiah was to come and be. They struggled with how Jesus Christ manifested Himself to them. Not only was Jesus the Son of God but He is also God. Homooousios expresses this thought when the Council of Nicaea met to affirm Christ's divinity. **The Nicaean Council wanted to discover whether Jesus was the same substance as God (Homooousios) or was he something familiar to God (Homoiousios).**

One of the objectives and purposes of Christ was to destroy the works of the enemy: it was the work of sin, the work of the flesh in man. Because sin separated us from God, Jesus was the solution to reinstate and reconcile us back to God.

It is important and imperative that we understand that Jesus is of the same substance of God. Jesus is not another kind but is the very essence of God expressed through humanity. I John explores this thought against neo-gnosticism that sought to separate Christ's divinity from his humanity. We have to lean into the ramifications of us following Christ and the fact that he is 100% God and 100% man.

He was limited by human capacity, yet also established himself as humanity's pattern and painted the picture for humanity of things to come.



Christology is an expression of “Who do men say that I am?” (Matthew 16:13) The (universal) Church is to be a reflection and representation of the type of humanity Jesus Christ exemplified. When we don’t exemplify and amplify the characteristics of Jesus, he cannot be made known to humanity.

I. Christ’s Virgin Birth/Immaculate Conception

Jesus’s conception is miraculous. He is conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary. Joseph is not Jesus’s father, because if he was, we would have no remission of sins. Jesus’s birth was brought upon by the will of God. Jesus was *not* born through sexual or perverted violation (Genesis 6:4). Mary willingly availed herself to be a carrier of God’s gift to humanity (Luke 1:38). So it should be also for the believer, to have the right to receive or reject the claims that God wants to make about us. In receiving the Word of God as a seed, Jesus did develop into human nature.

Some implications of the virgin birth that give us an idea to believe that he is 100% God and 100% man as Elder Tawanna and Pastor Christ explained in our introduction.

One of the fascinating things regarding the immaculate conception, during the time of Jesus’s birth, was that there were a lot of barren women who hoped to bear children one day. Christ served as a sign that out of the ordinary, God’s miraculous power creates something out of nothing in the lives of those who have been marginalized by society. Just as it was for them, **Jesus continues to be a sign that the impossible becomes possible when we allow God to display Himself in and through us.**

According to scholars, around this time, every Jewish woman would pray before bed, “Lord, let it be me.” They anticipated and desired to be the vessel that God used to carry His Word. Thus, Mary had an awareness of the weightiness of her assignment and her willingness to be used of God. This connects Jesus Christ to the story of the Jews as well. Jesus was born in the right moment, in the midst of chaos, to affirm a people who were anticipating divine intervention in their history and lives. **Jesus being born of the Virgin Mary was a way of connecting Jesus to a particular genealogy.**



A. Jesus Christ, the fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy

It is important that we further cement the Virgin Birth as the fulfillment of prophecy, also through its connection to Jewish roots.

1. Genesis 3:15 prophecies Jesus and is fulfilled in Matthew 1:15. (The Woman's Seed)
2. Genesis 22:18 prophecies Jesus and is fulfilled in Galatians 3:16. (Abraham's Seed)
3. Isaiah 11:1-2 prophecies Jesus and is fulfilled in Matthew 1:1. (The Rod and the Branch of Jesse)

II. Jesus Christ, Submission, and His Humanity

Pastor Chris:

The humanity of Jesus Christ teaches us about submission, which is an important theme in Christology and paramount to our walk as believers. Jesus was submitted to his Heavenly Father and to His earthly mother (Luke 2:39, 51-52). Thus his journey towards submission to the Cross began with an acknowledgment to submit in his early life. The imagery is beautiful in that Jesus depended on humanity in order to connect with humanity because His divinity was already intact. He marries his divinity with the frailties of humanity.

We must affirm that:

1. Jesus Christ is **100% human**, and allowed himself to be subjugated by the natural limitations of His own creation;
2. Jesus Christ is a **true human**, and the example and pattern of what God intends for humanity to be in the earth;
3. Jesus Christ is also the **new human**; he is the epitome of what we are going to be as well. Jesus is all of that at the same time.

It's important to acknowledge and not deny that we are human. Jesus never denied it. Thus we can't deny our humanity and how we connect to what is happening around us locally, culturally, and globally. Jesus was impacted and affected by His world, such as we are in



the present day. Christ's coming was not only spiritual, but His birth, crucifixion, and resurrection was a statement to the systems of the world that God's order, manifested in flesh, has come and shall reign. Jesus is the salvific work that delivers us from the powers of darkness within the world.

III. The Nature of Jesus

Jesus had a divine nature (Son of God) and a human nature (son of man), yet he was *one* person and not two. He encompassed divinity enveloped in humanity. **Jesus's two natures do not result in dual personalities** like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. He is ONE.

Notice the harmony of Jesus's nature in:

Jesus existed in the form of man and didn't consider it robbery to be equal with God.
(I Timothy 2:5)

Notice Jesus's humility within his humanity as God in Philippians 2:6-11, as well as in John 13:1-17. He also modeled a new way of leadership. **Jesus redefined what greatness was instead of rebuking one's desire to be great** in Mark 9:33-35.

When you survey Jesus's life and ministry, you will notice that Jesus was multifaceted and represented and administered different roles, at the same time. In the wisdom of God, He was able to exercise those roles at the proper time. Jesus is both, and at all times. The Gospel of John explores the divinity of Jesus Christ as a human on earth. Colossians 1:19-20 describes Him as the fullness of God. His natural name, Jesus, is not the totality of who He is to the world (the humanity). His function, His purpose, and His being is *the* Christ, *the* Messiah, *the* Anointed One (His divinity).

A. Jesus Christ's Humanity, Acknowledged

1. **It is heresy (disbelief in established doctrine) to deny the humanity of Jesus.** Although some believers love to maintain the deity of Christ, we cannot minimize his humanity, which connects us to him in a personal way. (I John 4:1-3)
2. Jesus was a natural baby in Bethlehem. (Luke 2:7)
3. Jesus grew up in the manner of a child. (Luke 2:39-40)



4. Jesus grew up in subjection to his natural parents. (Luke 2:51-52)
5. Notice the genealogy of Jesus in Luke 3:23-38.
6. Jesus was tempted and tested. (Hebrews 4:15)
7. Jesus called Himself a man. (Luke 8:40)

Jesus experienced feelings, sensations, temptations, sufferings just as the rest of us.

B. Jesus Christ's Divine Attributes

A beautiful nevertheless, he was fully divine and God.
(Isaiah 9:6; Jeremiah 23:6)

1. **He is omnipotent (Matthew 28:18, TMB).**
2. He is omniscient (John 2:24–25; John 16:30; Colossians 2:1–3).
3. He is omnipresent (Matthew 28:20).
4. He is eternal (John 1:1–2; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 7:24).
5. **He is immutable (Hebrews 13:8).**
6. He is creator (John 1:10; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:10).
7. He is holy (Hebrews 7:26; 1 John 3:5).
8. **He is forgiver (Mark 2:5; Luke 7:48).**
9. He is **judge** (John 5:22; Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

V. Reflection

What is the importance of Christ's humanity and divinity? How can we learn from his duality?