

DOCTRINE OF CHRIST – Overview & part 1

Overview

I. **WHO IS JESUS? THE PERSON OF CHRIST** [*William Evans, Great Doctrines of the Bible*]

A. **Jesus Christ is man** (His Humanity)

1. Born of a woman
2. Born of the Virgin Mary.
3. Grew up like other human beings.
4. Had appearance of a man
5. Had a physical body & soul
6. Was subject to the sinless infirmities of human nature.
7. Given human names.

B. **Jesus Christ is God** (His Deity)

1. Had divine names: God, Son of God, The LORD, The Alpha and the Omega, etc.
2. Received divine worship
3. Possessed divine qualities: pre- & self-existence, life-giving, immutability, fullness of the Godhead.
4. Possessed divine attributes: omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence
5. Held divine offices: Creator, upholder of all things, forgiver of sins, raised the dead, Judge of all.
6. Name coupled with the name of God the Father – benediction, baptismal formula, baptism of Jesus.
7. What Christ said of His own Person and Work.

C. **Jesus is God-man.** [*Robert Reymond, Systematic Theology*] –

1. The Chalcedon Creed. Theanthropic – union of divine & human natures in 1 person.
2. False Teachings about Jesus Christ – Gnosticism; Monarchianism; Arianism (Council of Nicaea AD 325); Apollinarianism (Council of Constantinople AD 381); Nestorianism (Council of Ephesus AD 431); Eutychianism (Council of Chalcedon AD 451); Modern day heresies: Jehovah’s Witness, Mormonism, etc.

II. **WHAT DID CHRIST ACCOMPLISH? THE WORK OF CHRIST** [*William Evans*]

A. **His Death**

1. The cross & death of Christ is fundamental to the gospel.
2. Christ’s death as ransom, propitiation, reconciliation, substitution.
3. Unscriptural theories: accident, martyr, moral example, governmental, love of God.
4. Necessity of Christ’s death – holiness of God, sin of man, fulfillment of Scriptures.
5. Extent of His death – for the whole world, for each individual sin, for the sinful, unjust, ungodly, for the church; *The “all” passages; “world” passages; “Christians can perish” passages* [*Reymond, 685–702*].
6. Effects of Christ’s death on – the material world, men & Satan.

B. **His Resurrection**

1. Fundamental to Christian faith
2. Christ actually died and rose from the dead
3. Christ’s resurrected body witnessed by many
4. Christ’s resurrected body was real, not a ghost; was supernatural.
5. Credibility of Christ’s Resurrection – *argued from*:
 - *Cause & effect*: empty tomb; Worship changed from the Sabbath (Sat) to the Lord’s Day (Sun); frightened discouraged disciples made bold; New testament;
 - *Testimony*: of > 500 credible witnesses (many disciples were martyred);
6. Results of Christ’s Resurrection
 - To the believer: assures him of acceptance with God; an interceding High Priest in the heavens, assures him of needed power for life & service; of his own resurrection & immortality.
 - To the world: certainty of a bodily resurrection & judgment day.

C. **His Ascension & Exaltation**

1. *Purpose*: Jesus ascended to Heaven to prepare a place for His people; now interceding for us.
2. *Nature*: bodily, visible, passed through the heaven, sat down at the Father’s right hand.
3. *Results*: assures us of confident access to God’s presence; hope of immortality; confidence that all things work together for good; Christ made the Head of all.

I. WHO IS JESUS? THE PERSON OF CHRIST [William Evans, *Great Doctrines of the Bible*]

Who is this Jesus Christ? From beginning to the end, the Christian faith and life is determined by the answer to this question. As the words of the Christmas carol goes,

*Who is He in yonder stall, at His feet the shepherds fall,
Who is He in deep distress, Fasting in the wilderness?
'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story! 'Tis the Lord! the King of glory!
At His feet we humbly fall, Crown Him! crown Him, Lord of all!*

Who is this man? Born in the manger, yet called the King of glory and crowned, Lord of all! Take away the name and person of Jesus Christ and what have you left of Christianity? Nothing! The whole substance and strength of the Christian faith centres on and rests in Jesus Christ. – *Sinclair Patterson*.

A. Christ is Man (The Humanity of Christ)

1. ***Born of a woman.***

- a. Being born of a woman, Jesus Christ submitted to the conditions of a human life and a human body, became the son of man by a human birth. Mt 1:18 “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” Jn 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us”. Rom 1:3 “...Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh,” Gal 4:4 “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,”
- b. Of the “seed of the woman”, of Abraham, and of the lineage of David, Jesus Christ is undeniably human.

2. ***Born of the Virgin Mary.***

- a. The supernatural birth of the Christ. Lk 1:35 “And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” Mt 1:25 “And [Joseph] knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.” “*By a creative act God broke through the chain of human generation and brought into the world a supernatural being.*” – *William Evans*. “*This event has become so important that it is still celebrated every year at Christmas. According to Luke’s Gospel, a devout young Jewess named Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph, but they were not married yet. An angel broke the news to her that she was specially chosen by God to conceive and bear a son whom she should name Jesus.*” - *C Seet*.
- b. By the power of the Holy Spirit. Perplexed, Mary asked the angel, Lk 1:34 “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” how she could ever conceive as a virgin. The angel replied that the Holy Spirit of God would perform this great miracle in her. Mt 1:18 “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” And v.20 “Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.”
- c. Planned by God from the beginning. Mt 1:22-23 “Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” Which prophet was Matthew referring to? The prophecy of Isaiah given 740 years before Christ was born about His virginal conception: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:13,14)
- d. The “seed of the woman, not of the man.” “*The earliest prophecy of the virgin birth is found in Genesis 3:15. Just after Adam and Eve sinned, God made an announcement to the serpent that had tempted Eve – “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.” The term ‘her seed’ (i.e. the seed of the woman) in this verse implies the virgin birth. In ordinary births the Bible refers to children 41 times as being the seed of the man, not of the woman (Genesis 17:19).*” – *C Seet*.

- e. The means by which **God** entered into the world. Isaiah prophesied again concerning Christ's birth, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: ... and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God..." (Isaiah 9:6). "The Word was God ... The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:1,14).
- 3. ***Grew up like other human beings.***
 - a. Jesus grew up as a boy in wisdom and stature. Lk 2:40, 52, 46 "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom:," "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature."
 - b. Subject to the ordinary human development in body & soul. And "they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions."
- 4. ***Had appearance of a man.***
 - a. The Samaritan woman recognized Jesus as a Jewish man. "Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me," Jn 4:9.
 - b. Two disciples on the way to Emmaus took Him to be an ordinary man (Lk 24:13).
- 5. ***Had a physical body & a soul.***
 - a. Mt 26:12. Jesus said, "For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did *it* for my burial."
 - b. v.38, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death."
- 6. ***Was subject to the sinless infirmities of human nature.***
 - a. He felt hunger: Mt 4:2 "when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was an hungred."
 - b. He was thirsty. Jn 19:28 "Jesus knowing ... saith, I thirst."
 - c. He was tired from travel: "Jesus ... wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well:" Jn 4:6.
 - d. He wept in sorrow over the death of his friend Lazarus Jn 11:35 "Jesus wept."
 - e. He was tempted in all points like we are, yet without sin (Heb 4:15).
- 7. ***Given human names.***
 - a. Jesus called Himself the "Son of man" (eg. Lk 19:10) no less than 80 times in the Gospels. He is indeed a son of man in that He is bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh.
 - b. 1 Tim 2:5 "For *there is* ... one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

B. Christ is God (The Deity of Christ)

- 1. ***Had divine names.***
 - a. God. Jn 1:1 "... the Word was God." Heb 1:8 "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom." Titus 2:13 "the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"
 - b. Son of God. Peter confessed Jesus "is the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt 16:16).
 - c. The Lord. Acts 4:33 "... the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." The angels proclaimed in Lk 2:11 "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Acts 16:31 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved ..."
 - d. The Alpha and the Omega (Rev 22:13, 16), "the first and the last" (Rev 1:17) – the title used of Jehovah in Isa 41:4, 44:6, 48:12.
- 2. ***Received divine worship.***
 - a. Worship is ascribed and given to God only (Mt 4:10; Rev 22:8,9).
 - b. Jesus unhesitatingly accepted such worship (Jn 4:10). Mt 14:33 "they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God." Lk 24:52 "And they worshipped him."
 - c. Angels commanded to worship Jesus. Heb 1:6 "let all the angels of God worship him."
 - d. Paul exhorted the Philippians to worship Jesus. Phil 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ..."
- 3. ***Possessed divine qualities.***
 - a. Pre-existence - Jn 1:1, 14 "In the beginning...was the Word"; Jn 8:58 "Before Abraham was, I am" i.e. Abraham's existence was dependent on me, not I upon him for existence. Moses met with Jehovah God "I AM" (Ex 3:1-14) at the burning bush. Jn 17:5 "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."
 - b. Self-existence – John 10:17 "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again."

- c. Life-giving power. All life has its source in Christ. Jn 14:6 Jesus said “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
 - d. Immutability – Heb 13:8 “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today and forever.”
 - e. Fullness of the Godhead dwelt in Him – Col 2:9 “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”
- 4. Possessed divine attributes.**
- a. Omnipotence. Jesus said in Mt 28:18 “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth...”; Rev 1:8 “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, ... the Almighty.” Jesus had all power (1) on earth over disease (Lk 4:38-41), death (Jn 11), nature, water into wine (Jn 2), storm (Mt 8); (2) in hell – over demons (Lk 4:35, 26, 41); evil angels (Eph 6); (3) in heaven (Eph 1:20-22); (4) over all things (Heb 2:8; Mt 28:18).
 - b. Omniscience. Jn 16:30 “Now are we sure that thou knowest all things”. Jn 2:24-25 “But Jesus ... he knew all *men*, ... for he knew what was in man.” Col 2:2b-3 “... of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”
 - c. Omnipresence. Mt 18:20 “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” 1 Co 1:2 “with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:”
- 5. Held divine offices.**
- a. Creator – Jn 1:3 “All things were made by him;...”
 - b. Upholder of all things. Heb 1:3b “upholding all things by the word of his power,”
 - c. Forgiver of sins, Lk 7:48 “And (Jesus) he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.” The Pharisees recognized that Christ was here assuming a divine prerogative.
 - d. Resurrected the dead. Jn 6:39, 40, 54.
 - e. Judge of all men. Jn 5:22. “For the Father ... hath committed all judgment unto the Son:”
- 6. His name is coupled with the name of God the Father.**
- a. Benediction. 2 Cor 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen.”
 - b. Baptismal formula. Jesus commanded his disciples to baptize new believers “in the name (singular) of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost” (Mt 28:19).
- 7. What Christ said about His Own Person and Work.**
- a. Jesus said He came from above (Jn 3:31), came down from heaven (Jn 6:38), from the Father into the world (Jn 16:27, 28), and was sent by the Father (Jn 5:36). Jesus taught in Jn 5:23 “That all *men* should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.”
 - b. He is one with God. “I and *my* father are one” (Jn 10:30). “One” is neuter, not masculine, meaning that Jesus and the Father constitute one power by which the salvation of man is secured.” – Evans. The Jews sought to kill Jesus because He claimed that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. Jn 5:18 “the Jews sought... to kill him, because he ... said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”

“The Scriptures declare that Christ was truly God... All divine names and titles are applied to him. He is called God, the Mighty God, the Great God, God over all; Jehovah; Lord; Lord of Lords and the King of kings. All divine attributes are ascribed to him. He is declared to be omnipresent, omniscient, almighty and immutable, the same yesterday, today and forever. He is set forth as the Creator and Upholder and ruler of the universe. All things were created by him and for him; and by Him all things consist. He is the object of worship to all intelligent creatures, even the highest; all the angels are commanded to prostrate themselves before him. He is the object of all religious sentiments; of reverence, love, faith and devotion. To him men and angels are responsible for their character and conduct. He required that men should honour him as they honoured the Father; that they should exercise the same faith in Him that they do in God. He declares that he and the Father are one; that those who had seen him had seen the Father also. He calls all men unto him; promises to forgive their sins; to send them the Holy Spirit; to give them rest and peace’ to raise them up at the last day; and to give them eternal life. ... He has therefore been the Christian’s God from the beginning, in all ages and in all places.” – Charles Hodge.