

## Christology Intro

The word "Christology" comes from two Greek words meaning "Christ / Messiah" and "word" - which combine to mean "the study of Christ." Christology is the study of the person and work of Jesus Christ. Some of the important questions that Christology answers include:

- **Who was Jesus?** Was He a prophet, a good teacher, a godly man, a fool, a madman, a con artist?
- **What was Jesus?** Was He God? After all, Jesus never actually said the words "I am God." If He was God, how could we see Him? If He was man, how can we trust His saving power? This question addresses the issue called in theological circles the "hypostatic union". Hypostatic union is a doctrine that basically teaches that Jesus was a completely different kind of person.
- **What is the significance of the virgin birth?** Could He have been our Savior if He had been born to a married, sexually active couple?
- **What does it mean to say that Jesus was the Son of God?** Aren't we all God's children?

It is no exaggeration to say that Jesus of Nazareth is the central motif of the entire Bible, both the Tanakh' and the B'rit Hadashah. He is central to history. There is a reason the world measures its historical eras in relation to the Christ. His presence and teaching were so powerful that two thousand years later we are STILL talking about Him.

Jesus is critical to our understanding of theology. He is critical to our understanding of salvation. He is literally the keystone of everything we believe. No wonder every cult and false religion in some form or fashion denies some aspect of His existence or nature!

Christology not only delves into the nature of the Messiah, it also seeks to understand what He came to do. It not only examines His life and message, it also studies His death and its significance. It explores the concepts of atonement, imputation, redemption, salvation...the list could go on forever if we allowed it. As the Apostle John said,

- [John 21:25 HCSB](#) And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which, if they were written one by one, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written.

If we do not get the doctrine of Christ right we should "be pitied more than anyone."<sup>1</sup> If we get the cornerstone wrong the entire edifice will be sufficiently weakened as to come tumbling down.

I believe that this section of our Ironworks study holds the possibility of literally being life-changing. Coming to grips with the fact that the Trinity willed our existence and out of a deep, infinite love for creatures as of yet unborn, and as a result willingly chose to suffer the loss of one of their Persons is flabbergasting.

We will also examine Jesus' various titles and names in Scripture, mining them for insight into His person, character and role in the universe.

May the Good Shepherd<sup>2</sup> lead you into safe pastures.

May the Light of the World<sup>3</sup> illumine your way in this dark and uncertain world.

May you find peace at the feet of the Prince of Peace,<sup>4</sup>  
and safety in the shelter of the immovable Rock.<sup>5</sup>

Pastor Pauley

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:19

<sup>2</sup> John 10:11, 14

<sup>3</sup> John 8:12

<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 9:6

<sup>5</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:4

## **Course Outline of Christology**

1. Deity of
2. Pre-existence of
3. Theophanies of
4. Messianic prophecies concerning
5. Immanence of
6. Atonement of
7. Historicity of
8. Virgin birth of
9. Humanity of
10. Incarnation of – Hypostatic union: fully human and fully God
  - a. Communion of attributes
  - b. Acts of Christ
  - c. An object of worship
  - d. Can sympathize with His people
  - e. The source of life
11. Humility of
12. Infallibility of
13. Messiahship of
14. Savior
  - a. Sufficiency of His death
  - b. Universality of His atonement: for whom did He die
15. Miracles – power over nature
16. Offices of
17. Resurrection of
18. Return of
19. Exaltation of
20. Titles of
21. Sovereignty of
22. Mediation of
23. Intercession of
24. Essential teachings of
25. Parables summarized
26. Jesus and the Law
27. Prophecy of
28. Priesthood of