

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Christology– Study of Christ– Part 1  
Divinity of Christ, Humanity of Christ,  
Christophanies, & Prophecies of Christ

## Introduction

- This is the single most important subject matter of all Christian doctrines.
  - “Who do you say that I am?”
- Like Theology Proper, it is inscrutable and infinite.
- All other doctrines depend upon this doctrine.
  - Defines theology proper since it introduces the Trinity.
  - The volume of Scripture speaks of Christ, thus affecting Bibliology. Fulfillment of prophecy is related to this.
  - The virgin birth teaches us much about the current condition of man, thus informing Anthropology.
  - Christ being our substitution on the cross teaches us about sin, or Hamartiology.
  - His death, burial, and resurrection are the defining point of the work of our salvation, thus affecting Soteriology.
  - His revealing of the Holy Spirit sets the stage of Pneumatology.
  - By His work, the church was established; hence Ecclesiology.
  - By His words, we know what to expect concerning His return – Eschatology.
- Christology is truly the center of all doctrine.

## Character of this Study

- It is best to begin with the nature of Christ.
  - He has two natures – Divine and Human.
- We will focus first on the divine nature.
- The character of this study is found in John 20:27-28.
  - Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” 28) Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”
  - Jesus invited Thomas to examine Him, and Thomas concluded that Jesus is God. It led to worship.
- Story of my professor.



## Explicit Statements

- A very clear statement is in John 10:30.
  - “I and the Father are one.”
  - The word “one” is the Greek word “hen,” or ἓν and it refers to being one essence.
  - This rules out modalism since it is one essence rather than person.
  - Yet, this rules out Arianism since it is a unity of plurality (I and the Father).
- This one is difficult to deny.



## Explicit Statements

- In Colossians 2:9, Paul states that Christ was God dwelling in bodily form.
  - “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,”
- Paul in Philipians 2:5-8 also teaches that Christ is God, but took on the form of a man.
  - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7) but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
- There are many more explicit verses than just these. But I wanted to begin with a few that were unmistakable.
  - There are other explicit passages, but they may not be noticed at first. I will move to those.

## Divine Names



- In Exodus 3:14 – I AM WHO I AM.
  - In John 8:58 – “Before Abraham was I AM.” They picked up stones to stone Him.
  - He would have spoke it in Hebrew - ehyeh-asher-ehye.h
- Another example is with the word “Lord.”
  - YHWH to Adonai; Adonai to Kurios. Romans 10:9.
  - John 13:13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.

## Divine Titles

- The title Son of God proves His divinity.
  - Many heretics reveal their ignorance when it comes to this point.
  - Jewish culture's understanding of "the son," means "equal to." They still reject this title for any man, especially the Messiah.
  - John 5:18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.
  - John 19:7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God."



## Divine Titles

- Another important title is the "First and the Last."
  - By logical definition, there can be only one first and one last. There cannot be two.
  - In Isaiah 44:6, God declares this as a title of Himself and declares there are no other gods. Thus, this rules out any other First and Last.
  - Jesus in Revelation 1:17-18 declares Himself to the First and the Last. He is equating Himself with YHWH in Isaiah 44:6.
  - Isaiah 44:6 Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.
  - Revelation 1:17-18 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18) and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.



## Implicit Statements

- Christ demonstrated divine authority.
- One example is over the Law. Jesus spoke above and beyond the Law. Only the Lawgiver has such authority. God is the Lawgiver.
  - Mat 5:21-22 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22) But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.
  - Mat 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28) But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
  - Mat 7:28-29 And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, 29) for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.



## Implicit Statements

- His divine authority is demonstrated by His power over nature.
  - Mat 8:23-27 And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. 24) And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. 25) And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." 26) And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27) And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"
- Only God has the authority to forgive sins. Let's look at Matthew 9:1-7.



## Implicit Statements

- The resurrected Christ makes the ultimate claim of authority in Matthew 28:18.
  - "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
  - Key word is "all." This means He has the highest authority and it extends over everything that exists.
  - Is it possible for two people to have the highest authority? Focus on the "est" suffix.
  - Only God has all authority. If He surrendered it, He would cease to be God. Thus the only way Jesus could have all authority is if He Himself is God.



## Implicit Statements

- Another line of implicit evidence is Christ was worshipped.
- No one is to be worshipped other than God.
  - Exodus 34:14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God).
- Both righteous men and angels refused to receive worship.
  - Act 10:25-26 When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. 26) But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man."
  - Rev 22:8-9 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, 9) but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."
- Jesus favorably received worship (Matt 14:25-33).
  - Matthew 28:9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.
- The author Hebrews shows that God commands the worship of Jesus.
  - Heb 1:6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."
- God commands Jesus' worship. Angels and men worship Him. In the OT, angels and men worship God. What are you to conclude then? Jesus is God!

## Divine Attributes Attributed to Christ

- One attribute of God is self-existent life.
  - John 5:26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.
- Another attribute is immutability.
  - Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
- Another attribute is eternity.
  - Micah 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.
  - John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.



## Divine Attributes Attributed to Christ

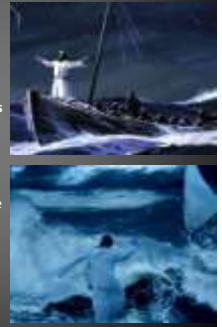
- The strongest case comes from the attributes of infinity (omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence).
  - In Matthew 18:22, Christ is with His disciples where two or more are gathered in church reconciliation/discipline. That occurs all over the world any given day. This shows omnipresence.
  - In Matthew 28:20, He will be with us until the end of time. This also shows omnipresence.
  - Colossians 1:27 says that Christ lives in us (Christians). This also shows omnipresence.
- Hebrews 1:3 demonstrates omnipotence.
  - “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,”

## Divine Attributes Attributed to Christ

- Jesus omniscience can be argued from the fact that He knew what people were thinking. He could also see any point of time that He chose.
  - John 1:48 Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”
- What about Jesus not knowing the day or the hour of His second coming?
  - This can pose a huge problem since it is impossible for God to lose an attribute and still be God.
  - Understanding the Hypostatic Union helps with this, since it shows that Jesus did not lose any attributes, but instead He voluntarily chose not to use them during His earthly ministry.
  - Thus, in this case, He chose not to use His omniscience. He also used the present sense (knows). This limits it to His temporary disuse of His divine attributes.
  - Right now, He no longer submits Himself to our limitations. He does know the day and the hour. Acts 1:6 strongly implies this – “it is not for you to know.”

## Divine Attributes Attributed to Christ

- Another attribute of God is veracity or truth.
  - John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
- Another attribute of God is righteousness.
  - Acts 3:14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,
- Another attribute of God is sovereignty.
  - Daniel 2:47 The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.”
  - Revelation 19:16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.
- Holiness is another attribute.
  - John 6:69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”



## Argument through the Creation

- God's original work was the creation. The Old Testament makes this clear. Yet the NT shows that Jesus is the Creator.
  - Gen 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
  - John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2) He was in the beginning with God. 3) All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
  - Col 1:16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him.

## What About the Heretics?

~~Truth~~ Heresy



- Bear in mind, the heretics do have their own proof texts. They are a huge minority of texts.
- These texts are almost always difficult ones, and yet the cults ignore the abundance of clear Scripture and build an argument on these unclear texts.
- The context of these texts agrees with the clear texts in Scripture.
- The heretics need their interpretations of these texts to set themselves apart from us.
- The sheer abundance of texts support the historical view.