

Purpose of Our Study

Our goal in these notes is to provide an outline of the doctrine of Jesus Christ. This is important because 2 John 9-11 teach us that having the correct doctrine of Christ is a point upon which we separate from others, even professing believers!

The Person of Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Second Person of the Triune God, who existed from all eternity as the Son of God.¹

The Incarnation of Christ

The Father sent the Son into the world² and He took on a human nature and body at the incarnation.³ He is at once both fully God⁴ and perfect man,⁵ that His human and divine natures are inseparably united in one glorious Person, though these two natures must not be confused.⁶

The incarnation was effected through the virgin conception and birth.⁷ In His kenosis, he voluntarily laid aside the independent use of His divine attributes and prerogatives, but did not relinquish them, or simply mask them, or otherwise become non-deity.⁸ The Lord is not in the kenotic state presently though He is still incarnate.⁹ He became incarnate to die for sinners,¹⁰ to give them eternal life,¹¹ to be a sympathetic high priest,¹² to provide an example to believers,¹³ and to reveal God in visible human form.¹⁴

The Substitutionary Atonement

Jesus Christ vicariously atoned for the sins of mankind on the cross,¹⁵ the Just One for the unjust ones, offering Himself¹⁶ to satisfy God's righteousness.¹⁷

¹ Matt. 16:16; John 1:18; 10:36; 17:5

² John 3:16-17, 20:21, 1 John 4:10

³ John 1:14; Luke 2:40; Dan. 7:13; Matt. 16:13; Php. 2:5-8; Heb. 10:5

⁴ John 1:1; Rom. 9:5; Titus 2:13; Heb. 1:3, 8; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 5:20.

⁵ Matt. 20:28; John 8:40; 1 Tim. 2:5; John 8:46; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5

⁶ Rom. 1:3-4

⁷ Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:31-35

⁸ Php. 2:5-11

⁹ John 17:5

¹⁰ Matt. 20:28

¹¹ John 6:51; 10:10

¹² Heb. 2:17-18

¹³ 1 John 2:6

¹⁴ John 1:18

¹⁵ Isa. 53:1-12; John 1:29; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:2

¹⁶ 1 Peter 3:18; Heb. 10:5-14

¹⁷ Rom. 3:25-26

The Resurrection

He was buried after he died on the cross and then he rose bodily from the grave.¹⁸ His body was glorified and is the pattern of the future body of believers.¹⁹

Ascension and Session

Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven to be at the right hand of God²⁰ where He presently is the Christian's High Priest and Advocate before God²¹ and is the Head of the Church.²² Taken together, His resurrection and ascension to be seated at the right hand of God are the seal that God the Father accepted His work.²³

Other Purposes for His Coming

The Lord Jesus came to be the ultimate revelation of God to man²⁴ and that He came, in fulfillment of prophecy,²⁵ first to Israel as her Messiah-King,²⁶ and that He was rejected of that nation²⁷ before giving His life as a ransom for all.²⁸

Wrong Views

We must reject any belief that denies the full deity of Christ (e.g. Arianism), his full humanity (e.g. Apollinarianism), his virgin birth, his eternal sonship, his bodily resurrection, and his sinlessness. We must also reject the governmental and moral influence theories of the atonement.

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¹⁸ Matt. 28:5-7; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:1-7; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Rev. 1:18

¹⁹ John 20:20; Php. 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2

²⁰ Luke 24:51; Acts 1:2, 9-11; 7:55-56; Heb. 1:3

²¹ 1 Sam. 2:35; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 4:14-16; 7:25; 1 John 2:1

²² Eph. 1:22, 23

²³ Rom. 4:25; Heb. 1:3; 10:12; 12:2

²⁴ Deut. 18:15; John 1:18; 14:9; Heb. 1:3

²⁵ Luke 24:27

²⁶ Matt. 3:2; 4:17; Psalm 2:6-9; 45:6-7; 110:1

²⁷ Matt. 12:24; 21:42; Luke 17:25; John 1:11; Acts 2:23

²⁸ 1 Tim. 2:6