



## What Every Christian Should Know – The Doctrine of Christ, Wed. Night: October 20, 2010

### **The Baptist Faith and Message: God the Son**

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Attitudes about Jesus are varied and often are strongly held. From denying that a person named Jesus ever existed to believing that He was God incarnate, people demonstrate their conviction about Him by ignoring Him or worshipping Him.

Perhaps the most popular concept of Jesus is that, while He was not divine, He was a great moral teacher and leader. While He is no more God than you or I, He is a wonderful example to follow.

This is a difficult concept to hold consistently. The reason is expressed skillfully by C.S. Lewis, who wrote in his book *Mere Christianity*: (which is in our church library – by the way)

*That is the thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things that Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic on the level of a man who says he is a poached egg-or else he would be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.*

The Four major Subdivisions of the Doctrine of Christ are:

1. Deity
2. Humanity
3. Resurrection
4. Return

**1. Deity: Jesus of Nazareth was God incarnate.**

Though Jesus was man, He was also God. The second member of the Trinity existed before He was born as Jesus. Christ was active in the creation of the world and during the Old Testament. When the timing was right, the Christ, the second person of the Trinity, became incarnate as Jesus but did not forfeit His divinity at any time.

Key Verse: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1) Remember from Sunday?-of course you do!

**2. Humanity: Christ was a man.**

Though Jesus was God, He was also a man. Christ took on the form of humanity, and though He did not sin He tasted all other human experiences, including hunger, fatigue, and sorrow, etc. He was supernaturally conceived, was born of a virgin, and lived a fairly normal early life as a carpenter's son in Nazareth of Galilee. As a man, He was crucified, died, and was buried.

Key Verse: And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14) Again SUNDAY!!!

**3. Resurrection: After being killed, Jesus was raised to life again.**

After being falsely accused and tried in a series of kangaroo courts, Jesus was subjected to the form of capital punishment reserved for non-Roman citizens. He was flogged, a savage punishment which, itself, killed 60 percent of its victims; then He was nailed to a wooden cross where He died. Afterward, He was wrapped in burial clothes and placed in a sealed tomb where He remained for three days. At the end of that time, the stone was rolled away to reveal a living Jesus; that He was raised from the dead, just as He said He would.

Key Verse: Who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 1:4) I didn't use this one Sunday.

**4. Jesus will return to earth at some time in the future.**

The picture of the Messiah in the Old Testament was an uncertain one. Some of the prophetic passages spoke of a humble-servant Messiah, while other passages spoke of a glorious and powerful king. So stark was the contrast between these two kinds of passages that some Old Testament scholars thought there would be two Messiahs. With the additional revelation in the New Testament, we now know how to reconcile these passages. Jesus came the first time as a humble servant and died for the sins of mankind. After He was resurrected, He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father. Some day in the future, and according to Biblical prophecy it could be soon, Jesus will return to earth as a powerful and glorious King to institute righteousness on the earth.

Key Verse: Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus. (Titus 2:13) Nor this one.