

The Person of Christ

Karl Barth: “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so”

Dostoyevsky “I believe there is no one lovelier, deeper, more sympathetic and more perfect than Jesus. I say to myself with jealous love, that not only is there no one else like him, there never could be anyone like him.”

Group time: Share favourite gospel moments

Theology



Devotion

1) Jesus Christ is fully God

Monotheistic Jews suddenly worship Jesus as God

Objections

The Bible is reliable and we have misinterpreted Jesus' words (various sects, mainstream university Theology courses)

The Bible isn't reliable

- Later Christians add in the divinity of Christ as they get carried away with themselves
- John Hick: It's illogical (either a circle or a square, either human or divine)

Affirmations

- Larry Hurtado: earliest Christians (monotheistic Jews) are baptising in His name, worshipping Him, doing and saying things which affirm his divinity
- Richard Bauckham *Monotheism and Christology in the Gospel of John*, Johannine Christology underscores Jesus' divinity within a monotheistic framework-OT and Christ

- Crispin Fletcher-Louis 'Jesus Monotheism': *"there is a precedent in the OT through typology for a "divine human" (Moses, Priest, King etc). Jesus Christ comes and takes that to an unexpected level."*
- Greg Lanier 'Is Jesus Truly God' (2020) : *"The New Testament authors did not feel the need to defend or prove the idea that Jesus is God. They assumed it. It was the inescapable conclusion towards which they were all drawn. This confession of the full lordship and the full divine status of Jesus Christ exploded overnight and was shared by all Christians. It shows up everywhere in the New Testament, even in places one might not expect. It was the air they breathed."*
- Thatcher, 2007, p.174-175: *"In Johanine terms, then, Christology is the image that emerges when a Christian interprets events from Jesus' life through the lens of the resurrection against the backdrop of the Hebrew Bible under the guidance of the Holy Spirit"*

a) Nature

Hebrews 1:3 "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."

Colossians 1:15 "He is the image of the invisible God..."

Philippians 2:6 "though he was in the form of God"

b) Pre-existence/eternal

Hebrews 1:2/8 "But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever",

Colossians 1 "And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together"

John 1:1-18 "In the beginning was the Word"

Demons

Mark 1:24

Matthew 8:28-29

OT Christophanies:

Genesis 18 (three angelic men, one is God himself)

Genesis 32 (angelic man who wrestles with God himself)

Exodus 3 (angel of the Lord in burning bush)

Joshua 5 (angelic man who commands armies of God)

Judges 13 (angel of Lord appears to Manoah's wife)

Daniel 3 (fiery furnace and "4th man" who looks like "son of the gods")

Zechariah 3 (angelic judge)

And OT revelation:

"Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms" (Luke 24:44)

"the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15)

c) Jesus is aware of this!

John 8:58 “Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am”.

John 17:5 “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed”.

Matthew 11:25-27 “All things have been handed over to me by my Father...”

He forgives sin

2) Jesus Christ is fully man

Birth (Matt 1:25)

Hunger (Matt. 21:18)

Thirst (John 19:28)

Temptation (Matt. 4:1)

Weeping (John 11:35)

Pain and suffering (Matt 16:21)

“Son of Man”

Mark 8:27-33 “... and he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things...I

Mark 10:42-45 “...for even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”

Mark 13:26 “And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory”

Matthew 26: 57-64 “But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power...”

• *The Bible Project* Podcast Tim Mackie, Jon Collins 14/1/19

Hebrew idiom “Someone from the class of humans”

Group Work: Daniel 7

Gethsemane

Hebrews 2:8 “putting everything in subjection under his feet”

3) Jesus Christ is the “Great High Priest”

Hebrews: 2:17, 4:14, 5:1

OT Priests

“A Priest was appointed for men in the things pertaining to God” (Barclay, ‘The Holiest of All’)

Crispin Fletcher-Louis

Role of High Priest:

- 1) New Adam
- 2) Temple is microcosm to enact
- 3) Represent 12 tribes of Israel (breastplate)
- 4) Kingly
- 5) Office not a person (compared King)

Mark 14: 61-62 “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”
(Psalm 110 “Priest in order of Melchizedek)

Melchizedek (Gen 14)

Reading:

Amazed by Jesus Simon Ponsonby

Jesus and the Eyewitnesses Richard Bauckham

A Way into Hebrews (Grove Booklets) Joy Tetley

Pauline Christology Gordon Fee

The Good God Michael Reeves