



St. Joseph's  
Episcopal Church

The Rev. Canon Dr. Winfred B. Vergara

# TEN BIBLE DOCTRINES

Session 3 | Christology: The Doctrine of Christ





# Prayer Before Bible Study

Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

—Collect for Proper 28: Book of Common Prayer, page 236)

# Review | Bibliology

We studied four subdivisions of Bibliology, the Doctrine of the Bible:

**A. Revelation**

The Bible is the revealed Word of God

**B. Inspiration**

The Bible is inspired by God

**C. Illumination**

The Holy Spirit enlightens us to study God's Word

**D. Interpretation**

We are students of the Bible who seek to interpret God's Word.

# Review | Theology

We studied four subdivisions of Theology, the Doctrine of God:

A. God's Existence

The Bible contains evidence that God exists

B. God's Attributes

God is Omniscient, Omnipotent, and Omnipresent

C. God's Sovereignty

God can do whatever God wills

D. God is the Trinity

God is the Father, God is the Son, God is the Holy Spirit



# Introduction

## What is Christology?

Christology is a combination of two Greek words:

- **Christos**, which means **Messiah**
- **Logos**, which has two meanings:
  1. logos literally means **word or words** in Ancient Greek
  2. logos is also a concept; it is **reason**, that in ancient Greek philosophy is the controlling principle in the universe

Simply put, Christology is **the study of the person and works of Jesus, the Christ, whom we know is the Messiah**. Christology seeks to answer the question, “who is Jesus?”

# Introduction

The terms **Christ** and **Messiah** are interchangeable.

A **messiah** is defined as a professed or accepted leader of some hope or cause according to Merriam-Webster dictionary. It comes from the Hebrew word *mashiach*. **Christos** is the Greek equivalent.

In the Old Testament, messianic figures were kings, priests, and prophets who were who were anointed like Saul in 1 Samuel 10:1. Jesus' followers recognize Him for who He is and proclaim Him The Messiah.

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven." – Matthew 16:16-17

# Introduction

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. – John 1:1,14

We return to the beginning of the Gospel according to John where he identifies God as the Word, who was God, and was with God. Then John talks about how Jesus came to us, as the Word made flesh.

Christology studies **Jesus as the incarnate God, one person with two natures: human and divine**. It also investigates how this nature relates to Jesus' life and works.



# Introduction

## Why do we study Christology?

Christology is linked to the study of the doctrine of salvation, which requires an understanding of Jesus' nature, as well as the study of God in the Trinity, and the study of the Christian Church. Most importantly we study Christology so we may better know Christ, and believe in him.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. – John 3:16

# Jesus, the Deity

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. – John 1:1,14

As the Word who became flesh, Jesus existed before his human birth as Jesus of Nazareth. He has divine names; he is the Son of God; revealed as I AM; reveals himself with I AM statements; has witnesses; and performs miraculous works. The Gospel of John is the primary witness to Jesus' deity.



# Jesus, the Deity

The name Jesus means **Yahweh (God) saves**.

She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. – Matthew 1:21

He is also called Emmanuel, which means **God is with us**.

Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel which means, “God is with us.” – Matthew 1:23



# Jesus, the Deity

He is the only begotten God. In the Gospel according to John, Jesus is referred to as God, and as the Son of God.

No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. – John 1:18

Then Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me, but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me, sees him who sent me. – John 12:44-45



# Jesus, the Deity

In John 12:36-41, it is revealed that Jesus is the God of the Old Testament, the great **I AM** as revealed to Moses, of whom Isaiah had a vision. Jesus is the one who came to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy.

Although he had performed so many signs in their presence, they did not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "Lord, who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" And so they could not believe, because Isaiah also said, "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, that they might not look with their eyes and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them." Isaiah said this because he saw his glory and spoke about him.

– John 12:37-41

# Jesus, the Deity

Only in the Gospel according to John does Jesus reveal himself with I AM statements. It reminds us of God's revelation to Moses in Exodus 3:14 when God said to Moses, "I AM who I AM." Jesus periodically makes statements explaining who he is as Messiah, the anointed one to his followers. Jesus says:

1. I AM the Bread of Life | John 6:35, 48, 51
2. I AM the Light of the World | John 8:12, 9:5
3. I AM the Door of the Sheep | John 10:7, 9
4. I AM the Good Shepherd | John 10:11, 14
5. I AM the Resurrection and the Life | John 11:25
6. I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life | John 14:6
7. I AM the True Vine | John 15:1



# Jesus, the Deity

In the Gospel according to John, the Gospel according to Luke, and Acts of the Apostles, there are documented examples of those who testified to Jesus' deity; they are the witnesses:

1. The Witness of John the Baptist | John 1:32-34

And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

# Jesus, the Deity

## 2. The Witness of Christ | John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

## 3. The Witness of Christ's Works | John 5:36

(Jesus said) The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me.



# Jesus, the Deity

## 4. The Witness of God the Father | John 8:18

(Jesus said) I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf.

## 5. The Witness of the Holy Spirit | 1 John 5:6

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.



# Jesus, the Deity

## 6. The Witness of the Scriptures | Luke 24:27

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

## 7. The Witness of the Church | Acts 2:32

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

# Jesus, the Deity

Throughout the New Testament, we are presented with Jesus' works—not healing—these works are feats that only a divine being can accomplish:

1. Create and sustain all things | John 1:3, Hebrews 1:2-3
2. Forgiveness of sin | Mark 2:5-12, Luke 5:20-24
3. Grant eternal life | John 10:28
4. Receives and answers prayers | John 14:14, Acts 7:59
5. Raises the dead in Resurrection | John 5:21, 28-29
6. Final Judge of the World | Acts 10:42, Revelation 19:11-21
7. Build the Church | Matthew 16:18



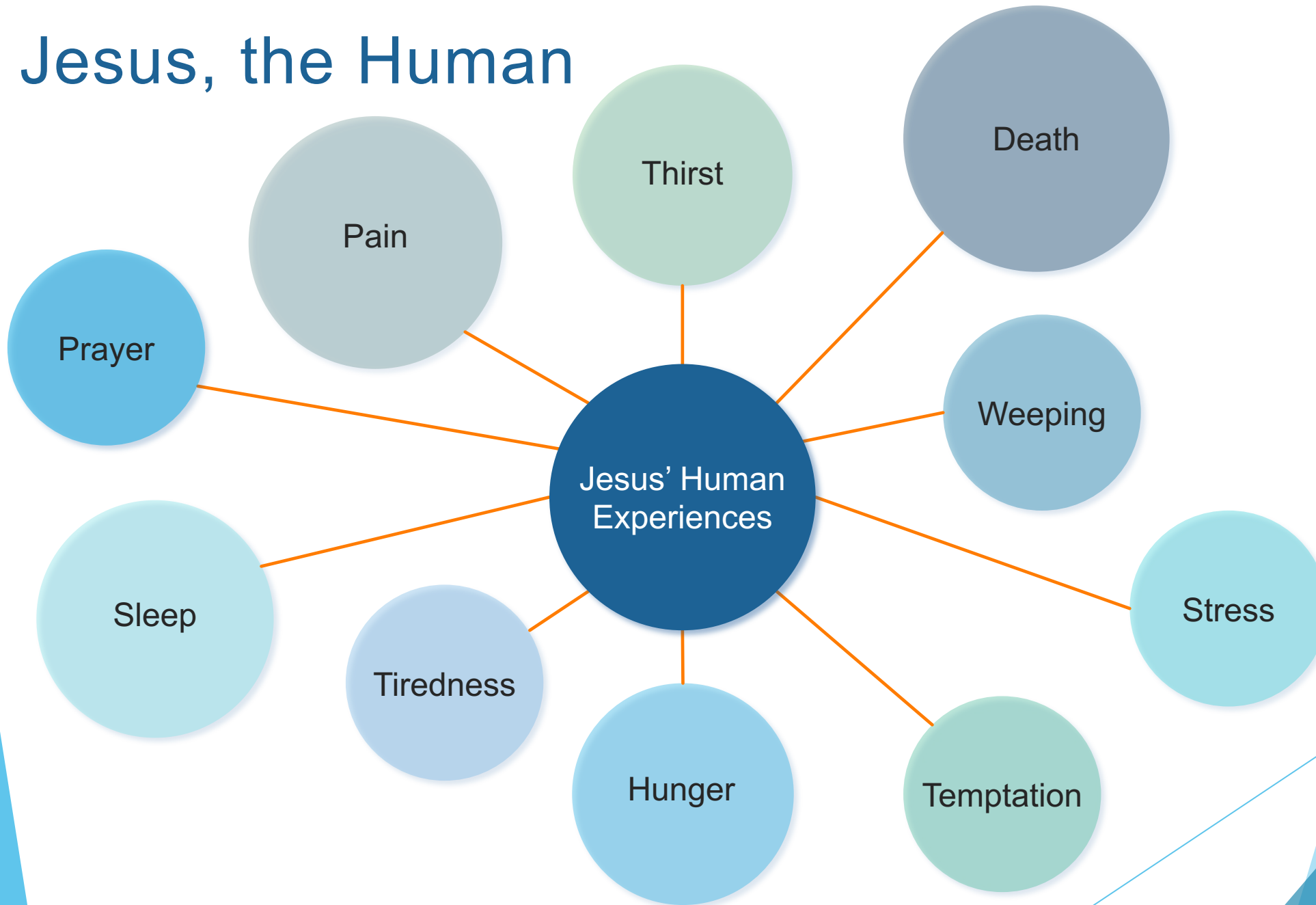
# Jesus, the Human

We can find proof of Jesus humanity throughout the New Testament.

He was born naturally, with **blood and water** (1 John 5:6), grew up as a child in Egypt and Nazareth, was baptized, and began preaching. All Biblical scholars agree on his experiences of humanity.

**How did Jesus experience humanity?**

# Jesus, the Human





# Jesus, the Human

Though Jesus was God, He was also a man. The duality of his nature allowed him to experience humanity, and yet retain the omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence of God.

This is called the **Hypostatic Union**.

**JESUS = 100% DIVINE + 100% HUMAN**

“There is of course, no adequate human analogy to this or explanation of it, for in all the world and in all the universe there is no greater mystery.... Only the infinite intelligence of God can fully grasp it, as only the supreme wisdom of God can devise it and only the omnipotence of God could achieve it.” (Peter Lewis, *The Glory of Christ*)

# Jesus, the Resurrected

But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. – Acts 2:24

Jesus was unjustly accused and tried in a series of kangaroo courts. He was subjected to the form of capital punishment reserved for non-Roman citizens. He was flogged, a savage punishment that killed 60% of its victims, then nailed to a wooden cross where He died. He was then wrapped in burial clothes and placed in a sealed tomb where He remained for three days. At the end of that time, a miraculous earthquake moved the stone from the mouth of the tomb to reveal that Jesus was raised from the dead, just as He had said He would.

# Jesus, the Resurrected

Jesus' resurrection provided proof to the naysayers that Jesus was the only begotten Son of God. His resurrection was:

1. Prophesied by Jesus | Mathew 16:21
2. Confirmed by Eyewitnesses | John 20:11-18
3. Fulfilled the Old Testament Promises | Acts 13:32-37
4. Necessary to Our Salvation | 1 Corinthians 15:12-19
5. Confirmed the Deity of Christ | Romans 1:4
6. An Accepted Sacrifice | Romans 4:25
7. Conquered Death | 1 Corinthians 15
8. Guarantees Believer's Resurrection | 1 Corinthians 15:15-20



# Jesus, the Resurrected

and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

– Romans 1:4

# Jesus Will Return

The picture of the Messiah in the Old Testament was an uncertain one.

Some of the prophetic messages spoke of a humble Messiah, a servant-leader, 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.

# Jesus Will Return

## Messiah: a King

I see him but not now; I behold him, but not near—a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter will rise out of Israel. One out of Jacob shall rule... – Numbers 24:17, 19

**VS**

## Messiah: a Servant Leader

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. – Isaiah 42:1,4



# Jesus Will Return

With the additional revelation of the New Testament, we can now reconcile these passages. Jesus came the first time as a humble servant and died for the sins of humankind. After He was resurrected, He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. In the future, perhaps soon, Jesus will return to earth as a powerful and glorious king to institute righteousness on earth.

while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. – Titus 2:13

# Jesus Will Return

They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” – Acts 1:11

# Summary

The four major ideas to remember about Christology are:

1. Christ is God
2. Christ is Human
3. Christ is Resurrected
4. Christ will Return





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