

Sermon Notes – December 16, 2018

Jesus: The Only Way to Make Peace with God

[#2] *Who is Jesus & Why it Matters*

John 1:1–18



Children's Sermon: Christmas is about Jesus

Who knows who Jesus is?

John 8:31–32 (NLT)

³¹ Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “*You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.*” ³² And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

What did Jesus teach about himself?

1. He is the Son of God
2. He is the Son of Man



Review God's Holy Goodness

Notes:

- Eternal Creator/Sustainer
- Gracious Love & Faithfulness (Glory/Goodness)
- Jesus/Word was *With* God & *Was* God

¹⁶ For from *his fullness* we have all received, *grace upon grace.* ¹⁷ For *the law* was *given through Moses*; *grace and truth* came *through Jesus Christ.*

¹⁸ *No one has ever seen God*; the only God, who is at the Father's side, *he has made him known.*

Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...

Jesus the God-Man is exclusively qualified to accomplish God's abundant goodness! (Justice & Mercy)

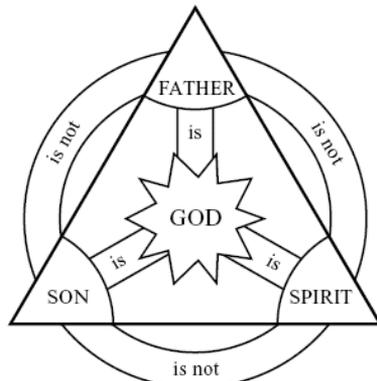


Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus & Tri-unity (3 Persons/One God)

¹ *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. ...

The Holy Spirit (Cf. Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4; Ps. 104:30).



Personhood includes relationship

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is *at the Father's side* (κόλπος – Bosom), he has made him known.

➤ Unlike Modalism (The Shack)

Jesus is the same essence with the Father (**Nicene Creed**)

➤ Arianism (Jesus was created)

➤ Three Persons, One essence/substance

Nicene Creed "...the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father."

Athanasian Creed

3. And the catholic faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;
4. Neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance.
5. For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit.
6. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is all one, the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.
19. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord;
20. So are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say; There are three Gods or three Lords.

Jesus is a Man

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, *was coming into the world*. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ...

¹⁴ And the **Word became flesh** and **dwelt** among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

J. I. Packer: "John's condemnation of those who denied that "Jesus Christ has come in the flesh" (1 John 4:2-3; 2 John 7) was aimed at **Docetists**, who replaced the Incarnation with the idea that Jesus was a supernatural visitant (not God) who seemed human but was really a kind of phantom, a teacher who did not really die for sins." ⁱ

"The Gospels show Jesus experiencing human limitations (hunger, Matt. 4:2; weariness, John 4:6; ignorance of fact, Luke 8:45-47) and human pain (weeping at Lazarus' grave, John 11:35, 38; agonizing in Gethsemane, Mark 14:32-42; cf. Luke 12:50; Hebrews 5:7-10; and suffering on the cross). Hebrews stresses that had he not thus

experienced human pressures—weakness, temptation, pain—he would not be qualified to help us as we go through these things (Heb. 2:17–18; 4:15–16; 5:2, 7–9)”ⁱⁱ

Nicene Creed “For us and for our salvation [Jesus] came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human.” (Cf. Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:35)

John the Baptist

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was **John**.⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁵ (**John** bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”)

John 1:19–28 John the Baptist testifies concerning his own mission

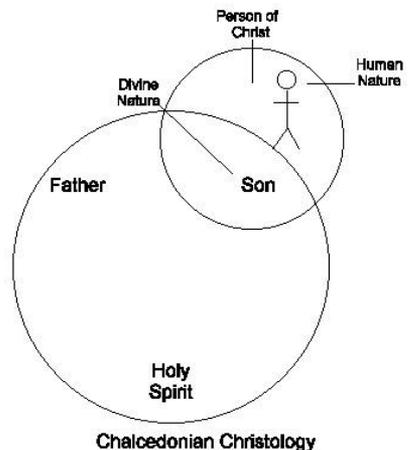
John 1:29–34 John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God

Two Natures, One Person (Chalcedonian Creed; See Chart below & Figure 3)

Athanasian Creed

30. For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man.
31. God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and man of substance of His mother, born in the world.
32. Perfect God and perfect man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting.
33. Equal to the Father as touching His Godhead, and inferior to the Father as touching His manhood.
34. Who, although He is God and man, yet He is not two, but one Christ.
35. One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh, but by taking of that manhood into God.
36. One altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.
37. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ;

Luis Berkhof: “...the Church accepted the doctrine of the two natures in one person, not because it had a complete understanding of the mystery, but because it clearly saw in it a mystery revealed by the Word of God.”ⁱⁱⁱ



Only Jesus could Accomplish God's Glory/Goodness

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Only Jesus Christ is qualified to rescue us.



Jesus Must be a Man...

Jesus Must be God...



The Truth Sets Us Free

Every Wind of Doctrine...

1. **Islam** (Deny the Trinity; Jesus just a prophet)
2. **Jehovah's Witnesses:** (Deny the Trinity; Jesus created)
3. **Mormonism:** (Mormons claim that God the Father was once a man and that he then progressed to godhood)
4. **Eastern Religions:** (God is an impersonal force)
5. **Pantheism:** (Deny God's personhood; Environmentalists; Hollywood loves Pantheism: "Avatar" "dancing with wolves" "The Lion King" "Pocahontas." "Star Wars"...)
6. **Materialism:** (Claim matter/energy is eternal)
7. God according to me...

Only the True Son can Grant Us Eternal Life

John 5:36-40

³⁶ But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, *the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.* ³⁷ And *the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me.* ... ³⁹ You search *the Scriptures* because you think that in them you have eternal life; and *it is they that bear witness about me,* ⁴⁰ yet *you refuse to come to me that you may have life.*

C. S. Lewis: "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 for a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." ^{iv}

ⁱ Packer, J. I. (1993). *Concise theology: a guide to historic Christian beliefs* (p. 108). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House.

ⁱⁱ Ibid. (p. 108).

ⁱⁱⁱ Berkhof, L. (1938). *Systematic theology* (p. 315). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans publishing co.

^{iv} Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, p. 41.^{iv}

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

The Nicene Creed, also called the Nicaeno-Constantinopolitan Creed, is a statement of the orthodox faith of the early Christian church in opposition to certain heresies, especially Arianism. These heresies, which disturbed the church during the fourth century, concerned the doctrine of the trinity and of the person of Christ. Both the Greek (Eastern) and the Latin (Western) church held this creed in honor, though with one important difference: the Western church insisted on the inclusion of the phrase "and the Son" (known as the "filioque") in the article on the procession of the Holy Spirit; this phrase still is repudiated by the Eastern Orthodox church. In its present form this creed goes back partially to the Council of Nicea (A.D. 325) with additions by the Council of Constantinople (A.D. 381). It was accepted in its present form at the Council of Chalcedon in 451, but the "filioque" phrase was not added until 589. However, the creed is in substance an accurate and majestic formulation of the Nicene faith. This translation of the Greek text was approved by the CRC Synod of 1988.

Chalcedonian Creed (A.D. 451)

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable [rational] soul and body; consubstantial [co-essential] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have declared] concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

Figure 3. The Six Basic Heresies Regarding the Person of Christ

