


6. Which role does the Son primarily fill in relation to man today?
- Prophet*
  - Priest*
  - Prince*
  - Potentate*
7. Which of the following statements is true?
- Christ was not involved in the affairs of man until His human birth*
  - Christ was involved in the process of creation*
  - Christ is no longer involved in the affairs of man - that is the Holy Spirit's work*
  - Once Adam and Eve were sent from the Garden, Christ had no further dealings with man until His human birth*
8. Who does Christ mediate between?
- Man, and God the Father*
  - Man, and God the Holy Spirit*
  - God the Father and God the Holy Spirit*
  - The believer and the unbeliever*
9. The Son is the believer's Advocate before...
- God the Father*
  - God the Holy Spirit*
  - The devil*
  - The unbeliever*
10. Whose role is it to judge and reward the believers?
- God the Father*
  - God the Son*
  - God the Holy Spirit*
  - The twelve apostles*

# THEOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS



## UNIT 1: THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

### Study 1. GOD THE SON

#### I. The Person of God the Son

- The Deity of Christ
- The Humanity of Christ
- The Significance of the Deity and Humanity of Christ

#### II. The Progressive Revelation of God the Son

- The Revelation of the Son in the Past
- The Revelation of the Son in the Present
- The Revelation of the Son in the Future

## REVISION QUIZ - GOD THE SON

1. Who in the Bible is referred to as “The Word”?
  - a. *The Father*
  - b. *The Son*
  - c. *The Holy Spirit*
  - d. *The Devil*
  
2. Which of the following best describes Jesus’ nature when He was on earth?
  - a. *Neither Man nor God*
  - b. *Man, but not God*
  - c. *Half Man, Half God*
  - d. *Fully Man, fully God*
  
3. Which of the following statements are false?
  - a. *Although He was God, Jesus’ did not appear physically “different”*
  - b. *Because of His human limitations, Jesus didn’t know everything the Father knew)*
  - c. *Because He was God, Jesus didn’t need to pray, but He did so as an example for us to follow*
  - d. *We have no indication at all of Jesus’ appearance*
  
4. Which of the following statements is true?
  - a. *Jesus has always existed as God*
  - b. *Jesus was the first being created by God*
  - c. *Jesus became God when he rose from the dead*
  - d. *Jesus will become God when He returns to earth*
  
5. Which of the following is not a significant truth concerning the fact that Jesus was both God and Man?
  - a. *His life had to be of sufficient value to pay the penalty of sin for all*
  - b. *To show us the nature of the Father in human form*
  - c. *He needed to be fully God so that He wouldn’t be tempted to sin*
  - d. *It was necessary to face the same challenges in life we face*

Father. In other words, the whole of Christ can be present in every believer as fully as if that believer were the only one to receive His fullness, and the whole "Word" or the Son of God, can be united to and present in the man Christ Jesus, while at the same time He fills and governs the universe.

Up until this point, the Son had filled a Prophetic role, but at His ascension He took on a Priestly role: that of our Mediator and Advocate.

He is the Mediator between God the Father and mankind: a role only He can fill as He became both God and Man in the person of Jesus. As a mediator He is the "go between" between man and God - the means by which we might have peace with God.

For those who believe He is also an Advocate, He is not all of mankind's advocate for "sin" (that was paid for on the cross). He is our advocate for the "sins" we commit since becoming a Christian. That is His business; that is why He remains constantly by the Father. He "pleads" our case before the Father, asking for forgiveness, not on the basis of our merits, but on the basis of His merits and the promises of God.

The Son's role in the future is that of Potentate. When Christ has finished His High Priestly work He will leave His Father's Throne and descend into the atmosphere of this earth to meet His espoused Bride - the Church. He will then accompany His bride back to heaven, and taking His place on the Judgment seat of Christ will judge the saints and reward them according to their works.

Having judged all the nations, the New Heaven and the New Earth will appear, over which Christ shall reign as King of kings and Lord of lords, for all eternity.

Thus we see in the progressive revelation of the Son, the perfect plan of God our Father. A plan more wonderful than men of old could have imagined. Through the ministry of the Son we can be united with our loving heavenly Father and enjoy His presence for eternity. "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!"!

## **I. THE PERSON OF GOD THE SON**

### **A. The Deity of Christ**

1.

*Scripture: John 1:1*

2.

*Scripture: Revelation 22:13 (Isaiah 44:6)*

3.

*Scripture: John 20:28*

4.

*Scripture: Colossians 1:16,17*

5.

*Scripture: John 6:68,69*

6.

*Scripture: John 10:10b*

## B. The Humanity of Christ

1.

*Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:5*

2.

*Scripture: John 1:14*

3.

*Scripture: Luke 2:40-52*

4.

*Scripture: Matthew 26:48*

5.

*Scripture: Matthew 4:2*

6.

*Scripture: John 11:33-36*

long flowing white robes. We might even have little difficulty picturing Him as He is now, seated at the right hand of God in glory.

But Christ revealed Himself to man long before His human birth.

John refers to Him as "the Word" through whom all things were created, as does Paul in his letter to the Colossians, and also the writer of Hebrews. When we read "God said..." in the book of Genesis, we are reading the words of Christ, the Son. In fact, whenever we read of God speaking to man, throughout the Old Testament, he is doing so through His Word - the Son, Jesus Christ.

So the people in OT times saw Him as "Jehovah", the Lord God. It was the Son who called out to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; it was He who warned Noah of the Flood, and who called Abram to travel to Canaan. It was the Son who gave the "Ten Commandments" from Mt. Sinai, and who led the children of Israel by fire and cloud. Through the times of the judges, the prophets and the kings, God guided men by His Word - the Son.

From all these references we see how active Christ was from the Creation until his human birth. At that point He began to reveal to mankind the exact nature of the Father up until His death at which point He became our Redeemer, paying the price for our sins so that we might be reconciled to God.

But does this mean that during the life of Jesus on earth, that God the Son was confined within a human body, unable to function as a full member of the Godhead? The answer to this question lies in the realisation that the "Word"

Although taking on the human form of Jesus of Nazareth, was certainly not localised within that form, but was able to maintain His role in union with the Father. The mystery here is similar to that which occurs in every Christian, of whom it is said, Christ is within us as well as every other Christian, while at the same time being seated at the right hand of the

It is inherent in our system of justice that only those who have felt the temptation suffered by an accused person are fit to determine whether he is innocent or guilty. So, in our hour of judgment, everyone will be judged by Him who is preeminently the Peer of all, Jesus. He is our peer and our fit judge because He has fully shared in our human condition, and He has endured the thrusting insistence, the onslaughts, of all manner of temptation.

But He became a man, not just to qualify Himself as our judge, but much rather to qualify Himself as our friend. Although sin found no place in Him, and He remained utterly pure in mind and body, no self-righteousness has made Him proud, nor is He quick to condemn those who are not as strong as He. The tears He has shed has made Him kind toward those who weep.

For this reason we who are tempted may with confidence draw near to God's throne, knowing that the "human" Christ will be merciful to our weakness, and the "divine" Christ will be strong to help us in our weakness.

## II. THE PROGRESSIVE REVELATION OF GOD THE SON

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever! He never changes. So when we come to look at the progressive revelation of God the Son in scripture, it must be stressed that we are not seeing a changing Son. Rather, it is the emphasis of His dealings with mankind that changes.

It must also be stressed that there is a sense in which the timeless God is always performing the roles mentioned, in our lives. That is, although He revealed Himself in the Son as "Creator" in the past, and "King" in the future, we can know and appreciate Him in these roles today.

We have a natural tendency to think of Christ as the man from Galilee in

## C. The Significance of the Deity and Humanity of Christ

1.

*Scripture: John 3:16*

2.

*Scripture: Romans 5:18,19*

3.

*Scripture: Hebrews 2:14,15*

4.

*Scripture: John 14:8-11*

5.

*Scripture: Hebrews 4:15*

6.

*Scripture: Hebrews 2:18*

## II. THE PROGRESSIVE REVELATION OF GOD THE SON

### A. The Revelation of God the Son in the Past

#### Key Word:

1.

*Scripture: John 1:3*

2.

*Scripture: John 1:4,5*

3.

*Scripture: Exodus 3:14 & John 8:58*

4.

*Scripture: John 14:8-10*

5.

*Scripture: 1 Peter 1:18,19*

confirmed by the NT letters. This witness is especially effective, for it comes from writers who were by then, fully convinced that Jesus should be called "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".

So Jesus was both God and Man - a truth that theologians have struggled to comprehend and explain, without any notable success. But is this point important anyway? Why did Jesus need to be both God and Man? Could He not have come as a mere man, without the God part of His nature? Or alternatively, could He not have come as God, with no human side to His nature?

Before the appearance of Christ it was easy enough to believe God existed, but not so easy to believe God cared. But if He never does another thing, if He never answers another prayer, He has already done enough to show He cares more than we know. He walked this earth in the human form of Jesus. In Jesus, God wept; He was hungry and thirsty; He slept; He was lonely and weary. In Jesus, God died. How can we say that He does not care?

Another reason for Christ needing to be both God and Man, was that, as man, Jesus had the right to represent fallen man. But His single life would have been sufficient to be the substitute for only one other man. For the lives of all men and women to be saved, an equal number of sinless people would have needed to substitute their lives for those of the sinners. But because He was also God, Christ had not only the right to save all people, but also the ability to do so. The life of God is worth far more than the sum total of all other lives.

Because we are flesh and blood, and therefore subject to death, He also, if He would be our Deliverer, had to share the same nature. Now forever the question is answered affirmatively: "If a man dies, can he live again?" Yes! There is a Man in heaven. He died. He lives. He has taken His human form into the very presence of God, and now He is the guarantee that all who die in Him will themselves conquer death and become co-heirs with Him of the kingdom of God.

halo more glowing and surrounded by a luminous aura. We expect Him to be among other people, yet quite obviously different from them.

This image may suit our pious urges, but it almost certainly bears small resemblance to the real Jesus. There is no indication in the gospels that Jesus stood apart from other people, or that He was the kind of man who was instantly recognisable in a crowd. On the contrary, it was apparently easy for Him to merge with the crowd - witness the indecision of the people concerning Jesus' identity, whether or not He was the person the rulers wanted to kill.

So there was nothing in His appearance that suggested Jesus was anything other than fully human.

From infancy to manhood His development followed the usual human pattern: He evidently did not differ noticeably from His young playmates, and was still obliged to grow in understanding and learn by enquiry. He did not possess either an intuitive or acquired knowledge that was beyond attainment by normal human faculties.

However it should be noted firstly that it was always possible for Him (as it is for us) to receive direct and supernatural revelation from God; and secondly that because His faculties were unclouded by sin, His "normal attainment" would have been higher than it is for us, upon whose faculties sin has had a devastating effect.

The true humanity of Christ is revealed in the nature of His relationship with God, and with Satan.

His relationship with God was built on prayer, which He seemed to need as much as we do. His relationship with Satan was one of combating temptation. This intensity of temptation sharply displays His sharing in our human experience. He must have been a true man, or the temptations would not have been genuine.

What the gospels show us about the true humanity of Christ, is

## **B. The Revelation of God the Son in the Present**

### Key Word:

1.

*Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:5*

2.

*Scripture: 1 John 2:1*

## **C. The Revelation of God the Son in the Future**

### Key Word:

1.

*Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46*

2.

*Scripture: Revelation 19:16*

## QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. If Jesus was to come to earth today in the same manner in which He came the first time, what do you think He would be like? For example, where would He live? How would He dress? What would He do? Do you think He would be killed again?
2. Suppose you met this person called Jesus described in 1, (above). What would it take to convince you that He was human? What would it take to convince you that He was God?
3. Why do you think Jesus is particularly suited to be our Judge?
4. What are some of the ways in which you have experienced Jesus help in your own life?
5. Read together Philippians 2:5-11. Share with others in your group the words or phrases that particularly stand out and are meaningful to you.

## FURTHER NOTES

### I. THE PERSON OF GOD THE SON

Was Jesus Christ, God, or merely a man who lived a perfect life? While there are some references (used by some of the cults such as Jehovah's Witness) which suggest that Christ is less than God, there are many more which clearly state or imply His full deity. When the whole testimony of the New Testament is taken into account, an overwhelming impression is left of the equality the Son shares with the Father. While it is true that the apostles nowhere tried to formalise their concepts of the Godhead, and the word "Trinity" is not used in scripture, yet the information contained in the NT made these later doctrinal developments inevitable.

Two things have in fact compelled the Church to affirm the deity of Christ-

- (a) the witness of the NT, which on almost every page ascribes to Christ titles, attributes and works, which are the property of deity alone;
- (b) the collective experience of Christian people, who, in their worship of Christ, their prayers to Him, their relationship with Him, behave irresistibly toward Him as though He were God.

So then, Jesus Christ was God. But another question then arises: was he also a man as we are men (and women)? In other words was he really human?

If you have an illustrated Bible, or have ever seen a painting of Jesus with His disciples, you will notice that artists always portray Him so that He is instantly recognisable - we would probably be offended if they did not do so! So we expect to see Jesus with His garments brighter, His stature more imposing, His hair more golden, His features more handsome, His