

EQUIP

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GBC's Statement of Faith on "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 humanity 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.

Outline of Discussion

1. The Person of Christ: Who is Jesus?

Who do you say that I am? (Matt 16:15; Mark 8:29; Luke 9:20)

Matt 16:16 : You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matt 16:17 : Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

(i) The Divinity of Christ

John 1:1–2; John 1:18; John 20:28; Acts 20:28; Rom 9:5; Titus 2:13; Heb 1:8; 2 Pet 1:1; 1 John 5:20

John 1:1 : In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Heresies: Ebionitism; Arianism; Unitarians; Liberal Christianity

Implications:

(a) We can have real knowledge of God.

John 14:9 : Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

- (b) Salvation and redemption is truly available for all us.
- (c) Christ's divinity is the reason why He is worthy of our worship.

(ii) The Humanity of Jesus

- Born (Mt 1:25; Lk 2:7; Gal 4:4);
Grew and developed physically (Lk 2:40–52; Heb 5:8)
- Normal home and family life (Mk 6:1-6)
- Weariness (Jn 4:6); hunger (Mt 21:18); thirst (Mt 11:19); slept (Mk 4:38)
- Joy (Lk 10:21); sorrow (Mt 26:37); love (Jn 11:5); compassion (Mt 9:36);
astonishment (Lk 7:9); anger (Mk 3:5); tempted (Heb 4:15);
- Worshiped (Lk 4:16).

The Sinlessness of Jesus

Matt 27:19; Luke 23:41; Cor 5:21; Heb 4:15; 1 Pet 2:22; 1 John 3:5

Heb 4:15 : *One who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

Implications:

- (a) Jesus' atoning death on the Cross becomes immeasurably significant for us.
- (b) Jesus can truly sympathize with us and intercede for us.
- (c) Jesus manifests the true nature of humanity.
- (d) Human nature is intrinsically good.
- (e) God is not so far removed from the human race.

Questions?

2. The Work of Christ: What does Jesus do?

(i) The Offices of Christ

- (a) King—Ruler

Matt 28:18; John 1:3; Luke 19:37–40; Phil 2:9–11; Col. 1:17–18; Heb 1:3

Luke 19:38 : *Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!*

(b) Prophet—Revealer

Deut 18:15; Matt 21:11; Luke 24:19; John 6:14; 1 Pet 1:11

Deut 18:15 : *The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you.*

(c) Priest—Mediator and Reconciler

Mark 10:45; John 17; Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25; 1 Pet 2:24; 1 John 2:2

Mediator

John 17:20 : *I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word.*

Rom 8:34 : *Christ Jesus—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

Reconciliatory Work of Atonement

1 John 2:2 : *He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Martin Luther: “For God does not want to save us by our own but by an extraneous righteousness, one that does not originate in ourselves but comes to us from beyond ourselves, which does not arise on earth but comes from heaven.”

(ii) The Stages of Christ’s Work

(a) The Pre-existence of Christ

Mic 5:2; Luke 24:27; John 1:3; John 5:46; John 17:5; Col 1:16-17; Rev 22:13

Col 1:16–17 : *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

John 5:46 : *If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.*

Luke 24:27 : *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*

(b) The Humiliation of Christ—Birth, Life, Ministry, Death

John 1:14; Rom 8:3; Gal 3:13; Gal 4:4–5; Phil 2:6–8

Phil 2:8 : *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

(c) The Exaltation of Christ—Resurrection, Ascension, Session, Return

Acts 1:11; Rom 4:25; 1 Cor 15:20; Eph 1:20; Heb 10:12; Rev 22:20

Resurrection

1 Cor 15:20 : *Christ ... the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

Ascension

Acts 1:11 : *Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.*

Session

Heb 10:12 : *But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.*

Return

Rev 22:20 : *Surely I am coming soon.*

Implications:

- (a) The necessity of Christ's atoning death shows the depravity of humans.
- (b) All true believers in Christ can find security in their salvations.
- (c) The Work of Christ demonstrates God's attribute of love.

1 John 4:10 : *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

Questions?

TRUTH FOR LIFE

- Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of God's promised redeemer, fully man and fully God, Savior of the church and Lord of the world.
- Jesus declares repentant sinners righteous by taking on the punishment they deserve, turns God's anger toward repentant sinners into favor toward them, reconciles repentant sinners with God who used to be adversaries, and defeated sin and its consequences and granted his victory to repentant sinners.

- We can have confidence about Christ that he is the promised Messiah, that what Christ did for us is perfectly sufficient and sufficiently perfect, and that Christ will finally redeem all things to become very good again.
- We can also have confidence that we have been freed from the ultimate consequence for our sins and about approaching God boldly and humbly.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How then shall I live in light of who Christ is and what He has done?
- How does Christ, His person and works, encourage and strengthen me to walk in faithfulness?

REFERENCES

- *Systematic Theology* by Louis Berkhof.
- *Systematic Theology* by Millard Erickson.
- *Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief* by Bruce Milne.
- *GBC Handbook on Church Matters*.