

Doctrine 4: Jesus Christ

4. Jesus Christ

Part 1 of 3

Doctrine
(truth)

- We believe that Jesus Christ is

Given name: Savior

Messiah: Anointed

• God incarnate, → in the flesh

Devotion
(relationship)

• fully God and fully man,

Duty
(action)

• one Person in two natures.

So we come to the fourth part of our doctrinal statement that is focused on Jesus Christ. And in many ways, this is central, the most distinctive aspect, of what we believe.

So first of all, **we believe** in Jesus Christ. And the two parts are significant, that **Jesus** was his given name that He received when He was born, and this means Savior. And **Christ** was originally a title, but often works as part of His name as well, and this is the Greek version of the Hebrew Messiah, which means the Anointed One, the one chosen by God to accomplish His purpose.

So what do we believe about Jesus Christ? Well, **He is God** and we looked at this in our earlier video, that He is fully God. He has all the rights and authority and glory of God. And He is God, now **incarnate**, which means literally "in the flesh", which means this is now God who is a human being.

And so we believe that He is **fully God**. He continued to have all of the authority and glory and power of God. And yet He chose to limit Himself. So it is like someone who perhaps would play a sport like basketball with one hand behind their back; Jesus lived in the limitations that He didn't have to. But He chose to, and He lived as one who was **fully man**. He got tired. He needed to eat. He needed to learn to do things, like walking.

And so He was **one person** with these **two natures** in who he was, so fully God and fully man.

4. Jesus Christ Part 2 of 3

Doctrine
(truth)

- Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—

Fulfill Old Testament

Devotion
(relationship)

- was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

No inherited sin
No actual sin

Duty
(action)

- He lived a sinless life,

As a criminal

In this, He was **Israel's promised Messiah**. And so there we see the expression again of Christ, that He is the one who was chosen to fulfill the Old Testament promises of God's work. And so He is the one that is doing God's work.

So His humanity comes from the two parts: He was **conceived through the Holy Spirit**, and **born through the virgin Mary**. And so in this, He had a human mother who was Mary and yet without a human father, for He was conceived through the Holy Spirit.

So He was born **without sin**. He did not have the sin that the rest of us were born inheriting, and so no inherited sin, and then no actual sin, whereas we have both. In spite of that, He was **crucified**, and He was crucified as a criminal, as if He were guilty. And yet the punishment He had was a punishment for a foreign guilt, for a guilt that was not His own.

4. Jesus Christ Part 3 of 3

Doctrine
(truth)

- arose bodily from the dead,

Dead → Life forever

- ascended into heaven

→ glory from eternity past

Devotion
(relationship)

- and sits at the right hand of God the Father

Worship
Fellowship

- as our High Priest and Advocate.

To authority & completed work

Duty
(action)

Compassionate → Prays intercessively

So He was in history, who was crucified, yet it did not end there. And so we believe that Jesus Christ arose bodily from the dead. So the first thing is, He really was dead and then **He arose**

bodily. And so He comes to a life ... and we believe that this is a life forevermore. So He is not subject to decay and dying again. So we believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ: He really died and He really came to life again. And He ascended into heaven.

He returned to the glory He had from eternity past. So for a time that glory was hidden; it was not experiential. And yet He then **ascended to heaven** to experience it again.

And so now He **sits**, and a key thing about sitting is an expression of authority and completed work. So the work He has done to bring salvation is finished. He said, "It is finished." It is complete, and He sits in the place of authority, **next to His Father in the honored place.**

And yet in another sense, His work continues, we're told, first as **advocate** -- a legal term of somebody who argues to defend, to help somebody. And we're told that Jesus prays, He intercedes for us. And so He continues to seek the Father's goodwill on our behalf. Not that he has to try and convince the Father, but this is the role He plays.

And He is also **compassionate as a priest**, He can listen and understand the difficulty. He is compassionate and we experienced that in our lives today.

And so we **worship**. We worship this one who has brought us into fellowship, and we have the fellowship with the Father because of the completed work of Jesus.