

The
2000

Baptist Faith and Message

A Study

Works Consulted and Cited

- ▶ “Infographic – The Christ Controversies Summarized.” *Christian History Magazine*, issue 51, 1996, “Heresy in the Early Church.”
- ▶ Charles S. Kelley Jr., Richard Land, and R. Albert Mohler, *The Baptist Faith and Message*, (Nashville: LifeWay Press, 2007).

Article II B. – 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 men 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.

Historic Struggles

- ▶ Christ is fully divine
 - Docetists (or Gnostics)
 - Flesh is evil, therefore the divine Christ would never touch it.
 - Jesus only seemed human and appeared to die, for God cannot die.
 - In some versions, “Christ” left “Jesus” before the crucifixion.

Historic Struggles

▶ Christ is fully divine

◦ Apollinarians

- Jesus is not equally divine and human. In Jesus' human flesh a divine mind and will resided.
- His divine will controlled or sanctified his humanity.

◦ Modalists

- God's names change with his roles or 'modes of being.'
- There is not any distinctions between the three 'persons' of the Trinity, otherwise there are three gods.

Historic Struggles

- ▶ Christ is a special man, but not divine
 - Ebionites
 - Conservative Jewish Christians
 - God is one and Jesus must be understood in OT categories
 - Jesus was a specially blessed prophet
 - Adoptionists
 - At birth or baptism (not conception), God “adopted” the human Jesus as His special son
 - God gave Jesus an extra measure of divine power
 - Arians

Historic Struggles

- ▶ Christ is a special man, but not divine
 - Arians
 - The Son, as Word (Logos), was created by God before time.
 - The Son is not eternal
 - The Son is not perfect
 - The Son is God's agent to create everything else.

Historic Struggles

- ▶ How is Jesus Both Human and Divine?
 - Christ – One nature
 - Monophysites
 - Jesus has one nature
 - His divinity swallowed up his humanity “like a drop of wine in the sea.”
 - Christ – Two persons
 - Nestorians
 - To dismiss Jesus’ humanity disqualifies him from being the Savior of mankind.
 - The divine Christ and the human Christ lived together in Jesus.

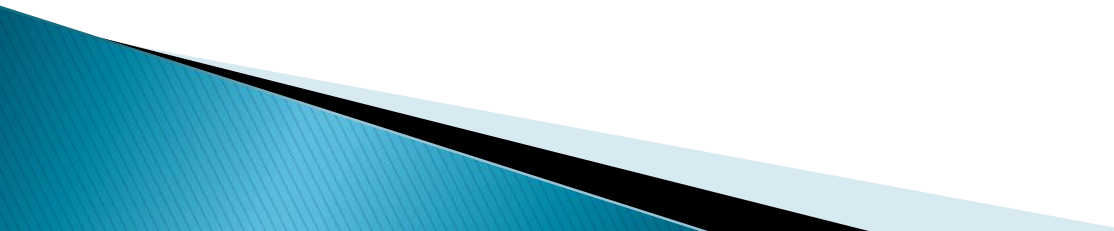
Historic Struggles

- ▶ Is Jesus Divine or Human?
 - The Orthodox View
 - Jesus is fully human
 - Jesus is fully divine
 - Jesus has two natures in one person “without confusion, without change, without division, without separation.”

The Eternal Son

- ▶ As the second person of the Godhead, Christ is eternal.
- ▶ He was eternally present with the Father – John 1:1–18
- ▶ He was the agent of creation – John 1:3; Col. 1:16
 - He is the Lord over creation – Col 1:17

The Incarnate Son

- ▶ His conception and birth
 - ▶ His sinless life
 - ▶ His substitutionary death
 - ▶ His bodily resurrection
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The Glorified Son

- ▶ His glorious ascension
 - ▶ His current ministry
 - ▶ His glorious return
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