

Christology: The Person and Work of Christ Lesson 11: The Work of Christ – Names and Offices

Statement of Belief: Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Second Person of the Trinity, is our great Prophet, Priest, and King.

Question #1: What are the offices of Christ?

Jesus Christ is Prophet

- He is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prediction of a Great Prophet
 - Deut. 18:15; Jn. 1:21, 45; 6:14; Acts 3:22; 7:37
- He was the ultimate prophet who explained God to man
 - Jn. 1:18; Heb. 1:1-2; Rev. 1:1; 19:10
- He prophesied while on earth (e.g., Matt. 13, 24, 25) and continued his prophetic work through the Holy Spirit after His ascension (John 16:13)

Jesus Christ is Priest

- The Old Testament writers predicted that the greater Son of David would be a priest not from the tribe or order of Levi but from Melchizedek. As our High Priest, He was both the sacrifice and the sacrifice who offered a final sacrifice that did not need to be repeated.
 - 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Heb. 1:3b; 7:27; 9:12, 12; 10:10-14, 18; 1 Peter 3:18
- Related to His work as high priest are the functions of intercessor and mediator
 - Romans 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 1 Tim. 2:5
- Christ's intercessory ministry was in operation even before the cross
 - Luke 22:32; John 17:9a, 15
- Christ is high priest forever
 - Ps. 110:4; Heb. 5:6, 9-10; 7:16-17, 23-25

Jesus Christ is King

- Christ is the head of a spiritual kingdom in the world today
 - Matt. 4:17, 23; Col. 1:13; 4:11
- He will be the monarch of a worldwide political kingdom when He comes again to assume authority upon the throne of David in Jerusalem
 - Isa. 33:22; Luke 1:32-33

See also 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Psalms 2, 45, 72, 89; Isa. 9:6-7; 33:22; Jer. 23:5, 6; 33:22; Dan. 7:13-14; Micah 5:2; Zech. 9:9; 14:9; Matt. 2:2; John 1:49; Rom. 11:26; 1 Cor. 15:25; Rev. 1:5-6; 17:14; 19:16

Jesus Christ is Lawkeeper

- Christ came to fulfill the Law (Matt. 5:17)
- He kept the Law fully (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22)
- His perfect righteousness is credited to those who believe in Him (2 Cor. 5:21)

Some other offices, works, titles

- The Last Adam (**1 Cor. 15:21ff.**)
- The head of a new creation (**2 Cor. 5:17**)
- The head of the body (**1 Cor. 12:12ff.; Eph. 4:15-16**)
- The Great Shepherd of the Sheep (**John 10:11ff.; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:4**)
- The Vine to the Branches (**John 15**)
- The Cornerstone to the building (**Matt. 21:42; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:5ff.**)
- The Bridegroom to the bride (**Eph. 5:22ff.**)

Question #2: What are some biblical names for Jesus?

- Lord
 - Comes from the Greek word *kurios*
 - Has a range of meaning from “sir” (**Jn. 4:11ff.; 20:15**) to a reference to deity (**Matt. 4:10; Rev. 1:8**)
 - When used as a title of Jesus, it should be considered a title of deity
- Jesus
 - Has both human and divine implications
 - Greek name *Iasous* is a form of the Hebrew *Yeshua* (Joshua)
 - Original meaning is “Yahweh saves” or “salvation is of Yahweh”
 - In an indirect way this speaks to Jesus being the God who saves, but it is fundamentally his human name.
- Christ
 - *Christos* is the Greek word for the Hebrew term “Messiah” which means “anointed one”
 - *Messiah* often used in the Old Testament for anointed priests and kings (e.g., **Lev. 4:3, 5, 16; 1 Sam. 16:6; 2 Sam. 23:1**)
 - References to the Messiah in Dan. 9:25-26 and Psa. 2:2 caused the title to become more restricted to God’s primary anointed One
 - By the time of the New Testament *Christos* was the title for the anointed deliverer promised in the Old Testament

- Son of God
 - Does not mean that the Father married a wife and had a child
 - Israelites commonly used the idiom *Son of* something to ascribe the characteristics of that something (see **Deut. 25:2; 2 Sam. 13:28; Job 41:34; Jer. 48:45; Mark 3:17; Acts 4:36**).
 - When Christ is called “Son of God” it is a declaration that he holds the characteristics of God. The Jews knew exactly what Jesus meant when he called himself the Son of God (**John 5:18**).

- Son of Man
 - Jesus’ most often used title for himself
 - Asserts his humanity but the emphasis comes from Daniel 7:13-14 where the “Son of Man” is the coming ruler who has both a universal and everlasting kingdom (see. **Matt. 24:30; 25:31; 26:64; John 1:51**).

- The Word, or Word of God
 - See John 1:1, 14; Rev. 19:13
 - According to Waterhouse John “intends to teach that Jesus Christ is the outward expression and revelation of the inner mind and thinking of God.”

- Savior
 - See Titus 2:13; Philippians 3:20
 - Christ is the deliver from sin’s penalty and power
 - Eventually, Jesus will save believers from sin’s presence

- The Lamb of God
 - See John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Rev. 5:6ff.
 - Based on the Old Testament sacrificial system, the New Testament authors, especially the writer of Hebrews, saw Jesus as the “lamb” that was to be sacrificed for the atonement of sin, a better Lamb of God.