



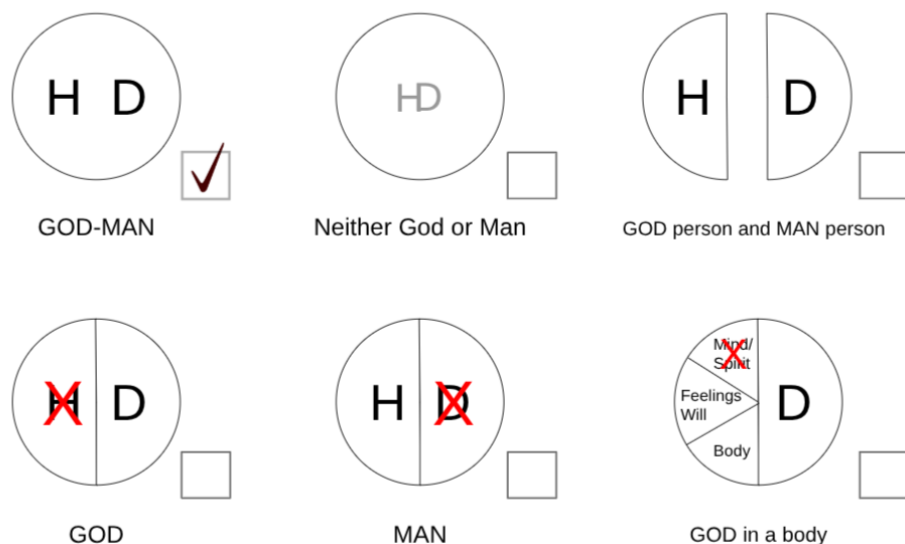
Who is Christ, and what did He do?

- Last time we looked briefly (too briefly) at the Trinity
- Now we turn to Christ
- We like to lay the foundations in these initial CC lessons
- Often we find new students might think they already know a lot about such things
 - But we sometimes discover that this may be something other than the case

- So I'll ask some gentle questions, to probe your knowledge, and see if we can understand more than we might have known.
- Firstly
 - We'll look at the 'Ontology' of Christ
 - That is to say,
 - Who is He, in Being?
 - What does the Bible reveal to us?
- Consider the following statements, are they true or false?
 1. Christ had a human body, but the spiritual (or rational) aspects of his nature were divine. Physically he was a man, but rational, spiritually, he was God. In other words, he did not have a human soul and spirit; all the immaterial aspects of his nature were divine.
 2. In Christ, a man and God were joined together without intermingling, so that Christ is really two distinct persons. The human person gave himself to the divine person so that there was moral unity between them, but there is not *substantial* unity between them.
 3. The human and the divine natures were fused in such a way that humanity participates in divinity. More accurately, Christ had only one nature. This nature was neither God nor human but a mixture of both. Like a drop of honey in a cup of water the two natures were mingled to produce a new third substance.
 4. None of the above.
 - The answer is number 4.
 - You see Christ had to be fully human to represent us
 - But He also had to be fully Divine to save us
 - If the Trinity is one God and three persons
 - Then Christ is one person and two Natures - fully human and divine.

Look at the chart below to see the false views and the true view.

Christological Truth and Heresies



- Secondly we'll look at
 - What exactly was He doing on the cross?
 - We hear words like 'atonement'
 - What does that mean?
 - And what was the nature of that atonement?

- Atonement means reconciliation
 - But there are differing views- which is correct according to the Bible?
- Here's just few
 - But which is correct according to all the verses of Scripture?
 - Which does best justice to the revealed Word of God (passages like Isaiah 53 for example)?

The Ransom to Satan Theory

Christ's death was a ransom paid to Satan to purchase captive man from Satan's claims. X

Dramatic Theory

Christ is Victor in a divine conflict of good and evil and wins man's release from bondage. X

Example Theory

Christ's death provided an example of faith and obedience to inspire man to be obedient. X

Moral Influence Theory

Christ's death demonstrated God's love, which causes man's heart to soften and repent. X

Commercial Theory

Christ's death brought infinite honour to God. So God gave Christ a reward which he did not need, and Christ passed it on to man. X

Governmental Theory

Christ death demonstrates God's high regard for his law. It shows God's attitude toward sin in a general way. Through Christ's death God has a rationale to forgive the sins of those who repent and accept Christ's substitutionary death. X

Penal Substitution Theory

Christ's death was a vicarious (substitutionary) sacrifice that satisfied the demands of God's justice upon sin, paying the penalty of man's sin in a specific way; bringing forgiveness; imputing righteousness; and thus reconciling man to God. ✓

- In short- He was meeting our exact need
 - You may think you don't need Christ
 - You may say I need Christ like I need a hole in the head!
 - But the truth is it's because of the hole in your soul that you need Christ.
- Have you ever wondered why you feel the need to constantly feed yourself with worldly information and entertainment and a quest for more possessions and pleasures - but the appetite for it never seems to get satisfied.
 - In fact sometimes it seems to grow worse
 - It's like the more things you feed yourself with from the world the emptier you become
 - Like 'doom scrolling' on your phone, like you're forever looking for something that you can't find.

- The Bible gives an illustration of this in Haggai 1.5-6

"Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Ye have sown much, and bring in little;

ye eat, but ye have not enough;

ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink;

ye clothe you, but there is none warm;

and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes."

- This was literally true of the people in Haggai's day, but it is also meant to speak to our spiritual need.
- To live spiritually:
 - We need spiritual food, clothing and wages to pay our way.
 - We need to understand the truth and feed upon it, we need to be clothed with righteousness, we need to drink in the waters of holiness, we need to work to keep the law perfectly.
- But we fail to provide for our soul, so it's like we're spiritually destitute and starving.
 - Trying to feed ourselves on the scraps of the world, and clothing ourselves with its rags.
 - And the only wages we earn are the wages of sin - that is, its consequences - death.
- You keep trying to fill this great void, but it's like putting money into a bag with holes in it.
 - The hole in the soul is never full, never satisfied
 - It's like what the Bible says about the pit of hell

Proverbs 27:20

"Hell and destruction are never full;
so the eyes of man are never satisfied."

- That's where trying to live a life without Christ will lead you.
- You may think that all that you feed yourself with in the world is enough and you're satisfied with it.
- You may fight against the message of the Gospel in your mind, and try to convince yourself that you're full.
- But that's like a starving man dreaming he's full.
- Or a man dying of thirst, that it is quenched.

Look at

Isaiah 29:8

"It shall even be as when an hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth;
but he awaketh, and his soul is empty:
or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh;
but he awaketh, and, behold, he is faint, and his soul hath appetite:
so shall the multitude of all the nations be,
that fight against mount Zion."

Look at Jeremiah 2:13

"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

- Empty things to live for, that can't satisfy your spiritual needs.
- Can fashion, philosophy, sport, entertainment, politics or education truly nourish an eternal soul given of God?
- And remember the Prodigal son, he rebelled and lived a sinful life far from God, but it lead him to a pig pen, with no friends or food.

Luke 15:16 "And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him."

- That's where the worldly road leads.
 - There's no future down that road,
 - No food, only feed for pigs,
 - And you might not even get that!

- But Christ will meet your need because he feeds you with Gospel truth, and revives you with the waters of life, earns what you need, pays the price of your sins, clothes you with His righteousness. Look at

Psalms 107:4-9

“They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way;...

Hungry and thirsty,

their soul fainted in them.

Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble,

and he delivered them out of their distresses...

For he satisfieth the longing soul,

and filleth the hungry soul with goodness”.

- This is why Christ was Who He was.
 - He had to be exactly like us to represent us
 - But He also had to be fully Divine to make a satisfactory atonement for us -
 - who else could bear the Divine wrath poured out,
 - or meet the demands of Divine perfection?
 - There is no one else.
- Know this, like Peter did when Christ asked him if he would go away, he said “Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life”
- Is there any other message in the world - religious or not - that answers our need like this?
- What religion has a Redeemer, or makes such an atonement?
- What worldly ideology can you follow that fills your soul and satisfies all its needs?
- See who you really are
 - See your state and condition
 - Wake from your sleep to know you are spiritually starving and destitute.
 - Then see Who Christ really is and what He has done for needy sinners like us.