

# **Christological Controversies**

***Christology: The Person & Work of Jesus***



**Designed & Taught by Hudson Davis, PhD 2012**

**Saint Louis University, Missouri**

**Edited & Uploaded by Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary •**

**BibleStudyDownloads.org**

# Christological Controversies

*Philosopher* MAN  
Historical Figure Rabbi  
SAVIOR LEADER  
*Messiah* Redeemer Priest  
Prophet TEACHER Counselor

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?  
MATTHEW 16:15

# The Christological Controversy

- Gnosticism
- Docetism
- Ariansim
- Apollinarianism
- Nestorianism
- Euctychianim

Christology  
IN LAYMEN'S TERMS

# Gnosticism

- **Humans are divine souls trapped in an material world created by an imperfect God. i.e.**
- **Denied the humanity of Jesus**
- **A wicked OT God and good NT God.**

**Divine  
soul  
trapped in  
a human  
body.**



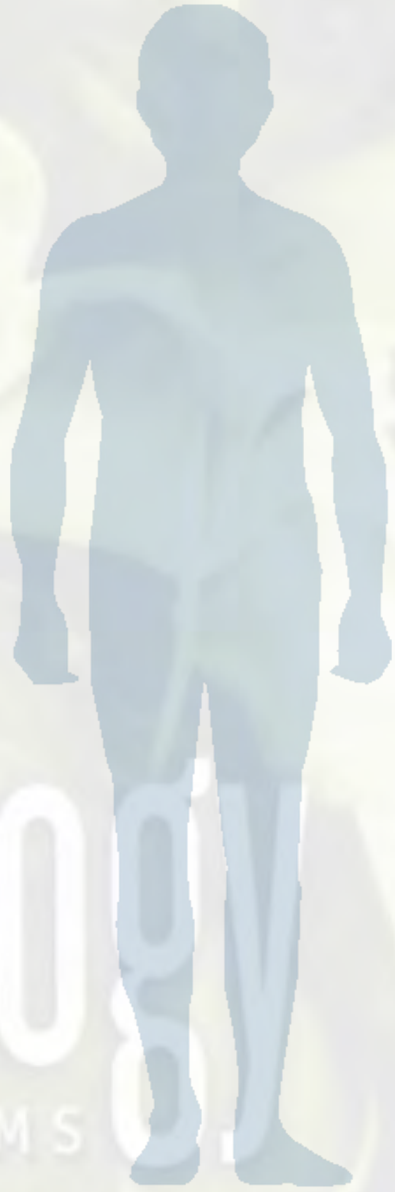
**Son is divine but was trapped in a body.**

# Doceticism

- **Jesus only seemed to have a body.**
- **Denied the humanity of Jesus**

**Divine  
soul  
trapped in  
a human  
body.**

**Son is divine and does not have a body.**



The Cross Movement Presents:

# Arianism

- Denied the full divinity of the Son
- The Son was a creature or lesser God
- The Father alone was true God

A  
Created  
God

**Son is divine only by adoption**



The Cross Movement Presents:

# Apollinarianism

- Denied the full humanity

**DIVINE  
SOUL**

**HUMAN  
BODY**



**Only God and partly man**  
**God.....Man**

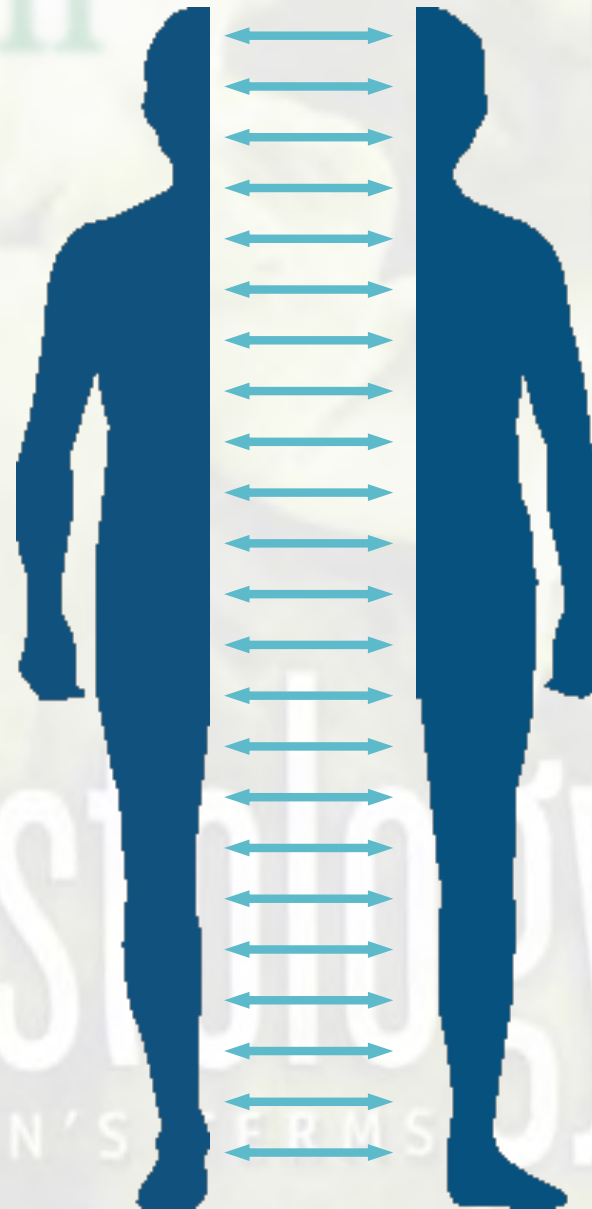
# Nestorianism

- **Affirmed Christ's Deity**
- **Affirmed Christ's Humanity**
- **A Divided the two**
- **Christ is divided into two persons one divine and one human**

**DIVINE  
NATURE**

**HUMAN  
NATURE**

**Two separate beings  
God.....Man**



# Eutychianism

- **Unity but confusion of natures**
- **A single third nature**

**DIVINE  
NATURE**

**HUMAN  
NATURE**



**Third Mixed Being - Godman**

# Christian Orthodoxy

- **The Son is God from eternity**
- **Both divine and human natures**
- **Undivided**
- **Unmingled**

**DIVINE  
and  
HUMAN  
NATURE**



**One Person: Two Natures**

# The Christological Controversy

- Gnosticism – divine but not material, the **spirit is good** but the **body is bad**
- Docetism – divine and only “**seemed**” to have a body
- Arianism – divine but only a **lesser God**
- Apollinarianism – divine mind in a human body or **shell**

# The Christological Controversy

- Nestorianism – divine and human but the two are separate
- Euctychianism – divine and human but the two are mingled

Christology  
IN LAYMEN'S TERMS

# The Nicene Creed

*(C.E. 325)*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of  
God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of  
God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten,  
not made, being of one substance with the Father, by  
whom all things were made.

# The Nicene Creed

*(C.E. 325)*

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was **(incarnate)** by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was **(made man)** and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He **(suffered)** and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

# The Nicene Creed

*(C.E. 325)*

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; [who with the Father and the Son together is] [worshipped and glorified;] who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

# THE CHALCEDONIAN CREED

(C.E. 451)

Following, then the holy fathers, we unite in teaching all men to confess the one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. This selfsame one is [perfect both in deity and also in human-ness;] This selfsame one is also [actually God and actually] [man,] with [a rational soul and a body.] He is of the [same reality as God as far as his deity] is concerned and of the [same reality as we are] [ourselves as far as his human-ness is concerned;]

# THE CHALCEDONIAN CREED

(C.E. 451)

...thus like us in all respects, sin only excepted.  
[Before time began he was begotten of the Father,  
in respect to his deity, and now in these “last  
days,” for us and on behalf of our salvation, this  
selfsame one [was born of Mary the virgin] who is  
[God-bearer] in respect of his human-ness.  
We also teach that we apprehend this one and only  
Christ-Son, Lord, only-begotten-in [two natures]..

# THE CHALCEDONIAN CREED

(C.E. 451)

...and we do this [without confusing the two]  
[natures] [without transmuting one nature into the]  
[other,] [without dividing them into two separate]  
[categories.] [without contrasting them according to]  
[area or function.] [The distinctiveness of each]  
[nature is not nullified by the union.]

# THE CHALCEDONIAN CREED

(C.E. 451)

Instead, the “properties” of each nature are conserved and (both natures concur in one) (“person” and in one prosopa,) but are together the one and only and only-begotten Logos of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus have the prophets of old testified; thus the Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us; thus the Symbol of the Fathers has handed down to us.

# Get this presentation for free!



[Home](#) [Downloads](#) [FAQ](#) [Links](#) [Contribute](#) [Contact](#)

Search...



Bible Study Downloads has thousands of PowerPoint® and Word files in 42 languages for free download [here](#).

## Christology link at BibleStudyDownloads.org

