



Christology

Jesus: True God and True Man

*Catechetical Certification Webinar, December 7, 2016
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Christology Agenda

1. Prayer
2. Objectives and definitions
3. Christologies in the Gospel
4. What the councils had to say
5. Images of Jesus from Catholic Spirituality
6. Jesus in the World today
7. Q&A

A Students Prayer

by St Thomas Aquinas

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom! Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and of ignorance. Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, a retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself. Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion. This I ask through Jesus Christ, true God and true man, living and reigning with You and the Father, forever and ever.

Amen.

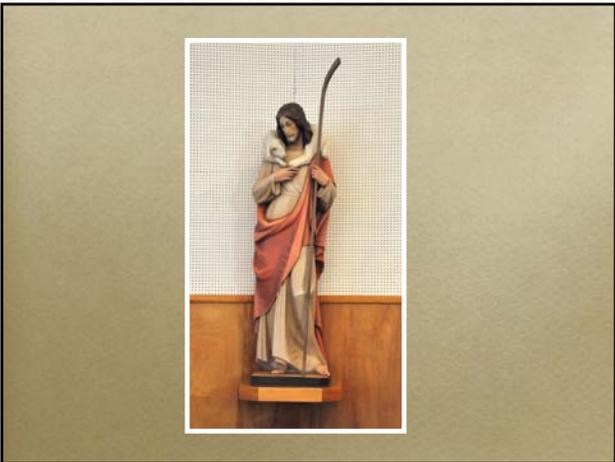
Learner Objectives

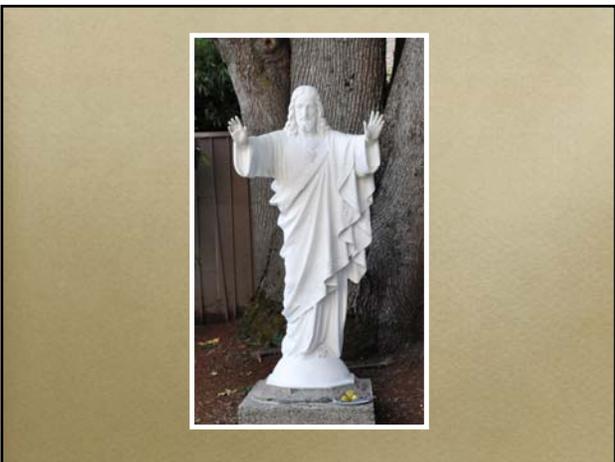
1. Recall and discuss titles of Jesus from Scripture.
2. Review Gospel Christologies.
3. Identify the Councils that articulate the Church's teaching understanding of Jesus.
4. Identify various images and titles of Jesus in Catholic Spirituality and devotions.
5. Explain how Jesus is present in the Church and in the world today.

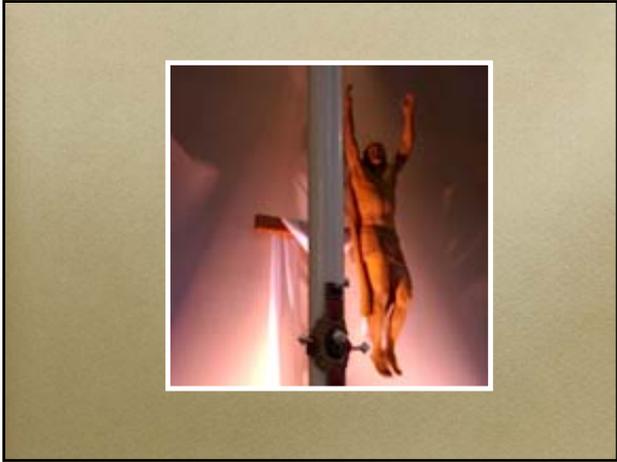


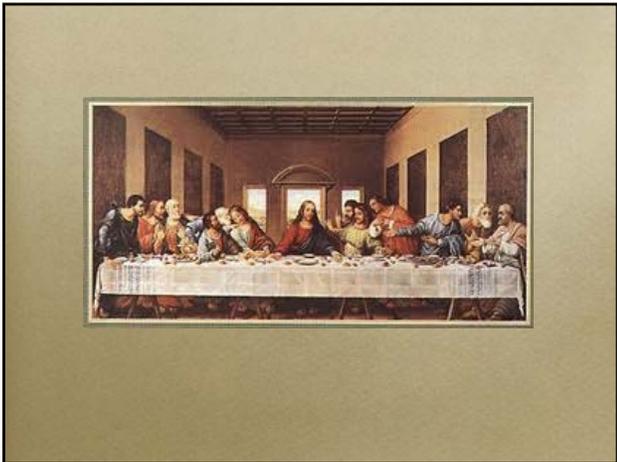


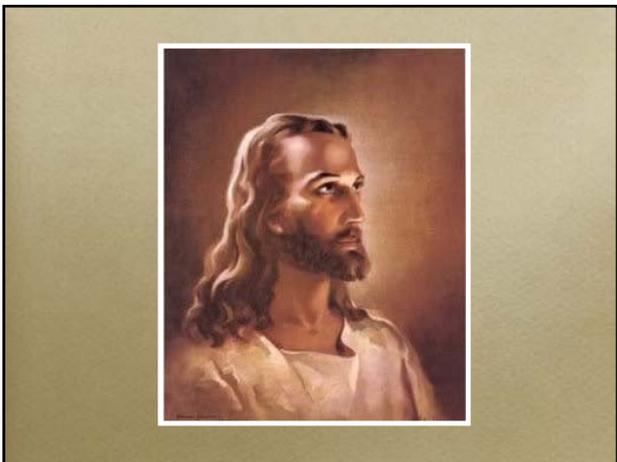




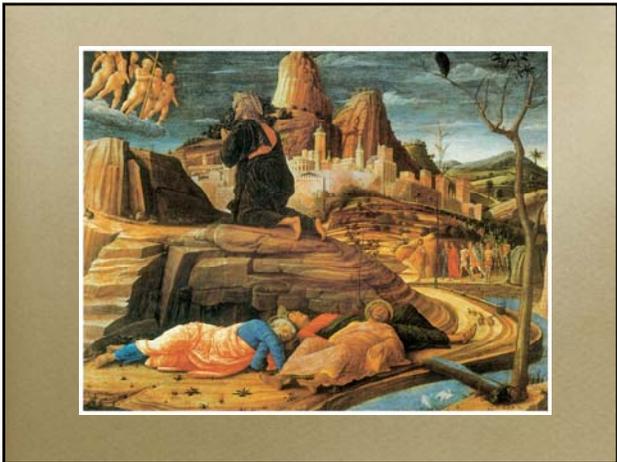


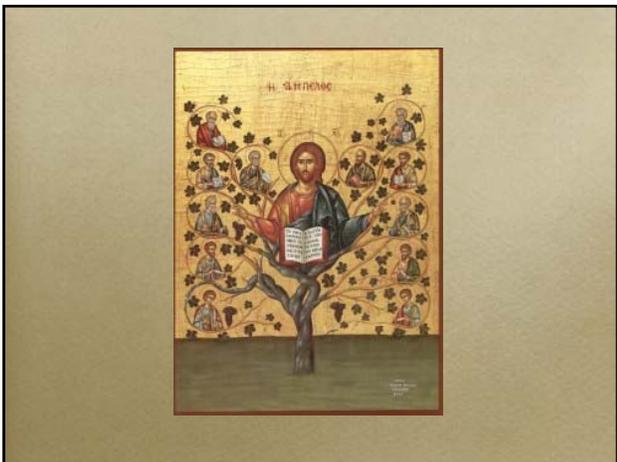


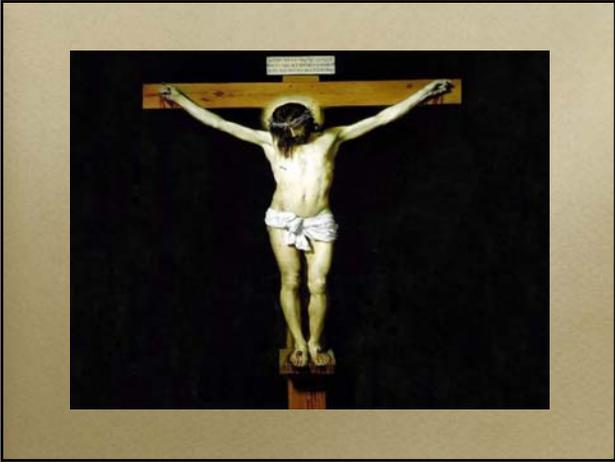


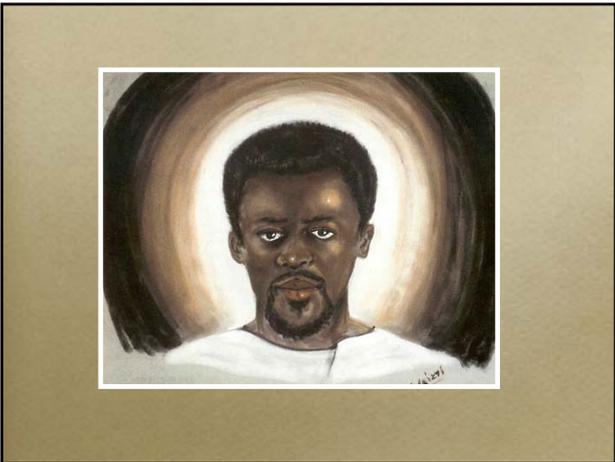


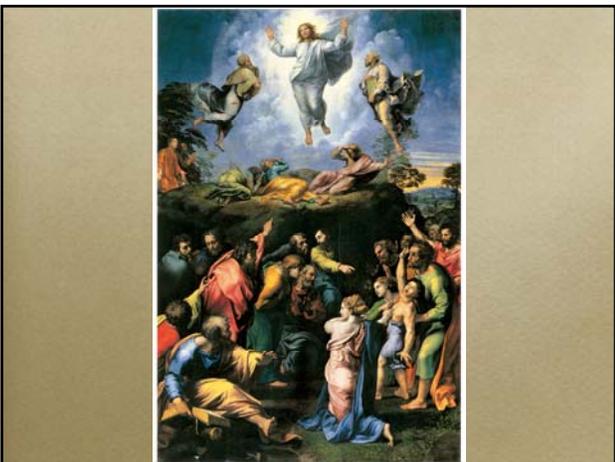




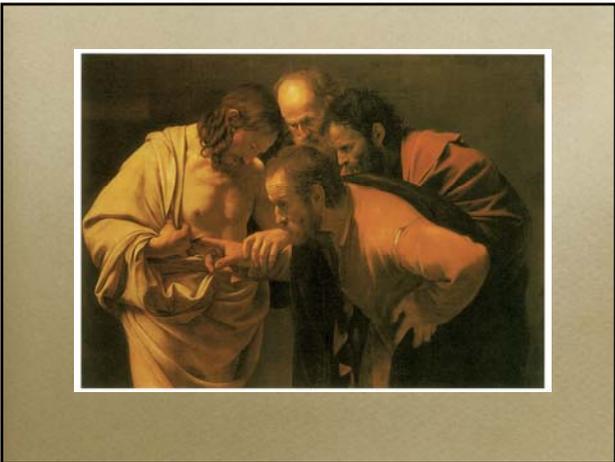


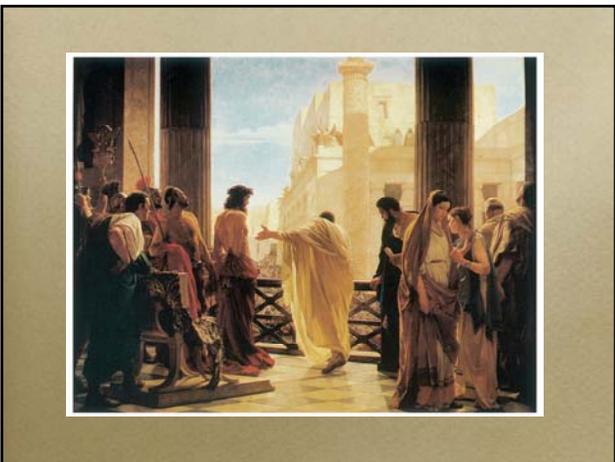


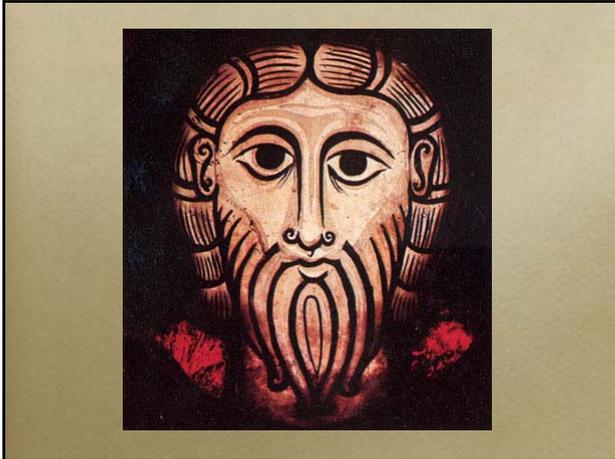


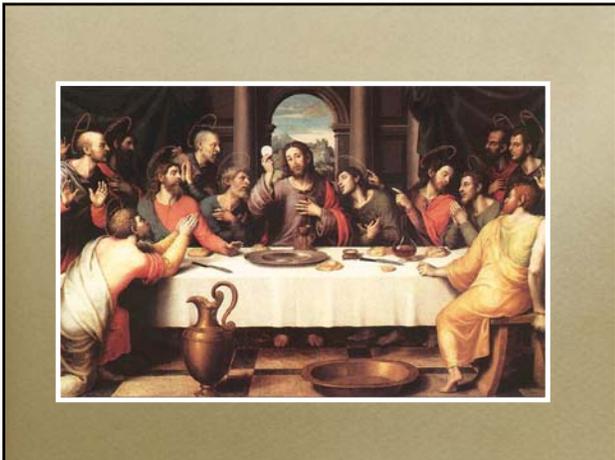












Our Images of Jesus

- Close your eyes.
- What is your image of Jesus?

Who is Jesus to you?

- *What images of Jesus did you form in your childhood? How have these images changed over time?*
- *What is the difference between knowing ABOUT Jesus and knowing Jesus?*

JESUS IS _____.

Christology

- Examines the Church's belief of Jesus Christ as both fully human and fully divine.
- The focus of Christology is the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus, the Son.
- Opens up the spiritual reality that what is not assumed cannot be redeemed. God redeems us by taking on our humanity in Jesus.
- We know of our salvation because of Jesus coming to lead us back to God.

Christology

- Jesus points us back to God in various ways recorded in Scripture and remembered in Tradition through His Incarnation, ministry and the Paschal Mystery.

Incarnation

- Incarnation refers to the 2nd Person of the Trinity becoming human and taking on our flesh.
- God becomes flesh in Jesus without compromise to divinity. He is fully human and fully divine.
- The Catholic Church incarnates Jesus for the world.
- We incarnate Jesus by our ministry on behalf of the Church and by our example in daily life.

See also CCC 461, 464

Paschal Mystery

- Refers to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Held by tradition and recorded in scripture from pre-existent *logos*, or Word, conception through the Holy Spirit, his birth by Mary, his death through crucifixion, his resurrection and his ascension.
- Serves as the source of our own salvation in Jesus Christ.
- Is that by which we invite others into to full communion through our mission work at home and around the world.

Jesus according to the Catechism

The glossary of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: “ *The eternal Son of God, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered crucifixion and death, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, and will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. ‘Jesus’, which means ‘God saves’ in Hebrew, was the name given to him at the Annunciation; ‘Christ’ is a title which comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew Messiah and means anointed.*”

See also CCC 430-451

Sources of Christological Understanding

Sacred Scripture	Sacred Tradition
-Matthew	-Council of Nicea
-Mark	-Council of Ephesus
-Luke	-Council of Chalcedon
-John	
-Paul's Letters	

Jesus in Matthew's Gospel

Traditionally Matthew was thought to be the apostle Matthew, also known as Levi, the tax collector.

Jewish Christian who spoke both Greek and Aramaic.

Wrote for a Jewish audience.

Jesus throughout Matthew's gospel is portrayed as the new Moses.

Jesus in Matthew's Gospel

Other images of Jesus include:

- Newborn baby and King of the Jews- Mt. 2:2
- Lawgiver- Mt. 5
- Son of David- Mt. 9:27
- Friend to sinners- Mt. 11:19
- Carpenter's Son- Mt. 13:55
- Messiah, Son of the Living God- Mt. 16:16
- Bridegroom- Mt. 25:6

Jesus in Mark's Gospel

John Mark, a Gentile disciple of Peter.

Wrote the gospel for Gentiles, probably from Peter's preaching

The first of the gospels to be written.

Spoke Greek and Aramaic.

In Mark's Gospel Jesus is the new Messiah. He points to this through Jesus' story; His teachings, healings, parables, meeting with demons, His death and resurrection.

Jesus in Mark's Gospel

Other images of Jesus from the gospel:

- Son of God- Mk. 1:11, 9:7 and 15:39
- Son of David- Mk. 12:35
- Son of Man- Mk. 2:10, 27-28, 8:31, 13:26, 14:21
- Suffering Son- seen through the lens of the Cross

Jesus in Luke's Gospel

Luke was a physician and disciple of Paul.

Gentile Christian writing for Gentile Christian audience, most likely in Greece.

This gospel is one of salvation history. Tracing back through the Old Testament and showing fulfillment of God's promises through Jesus in the New Testament.

Jesus in this Gospel is merciful and compassionate to all but most especially the downtrodden, the poor, the afflicted and women.

Jesus is the Savior of the World.

Jesus in Luke's Gospel

Other images of Jesus from the gospel:

- Son of God- Lk. 1:35
- Bridegroom- Lk. 5:34-35
- Lord- Lk. 2:11, Lk. 7:19
- Master- Lk. 8:24, 8:45
- Messiah- Lk. 9:21
- Teacher- Lk. 9:38
- Son of Man

Jesus in John's Gospel

The "Beloved Disciple" may have been source for eyewitness testimony, but not the writer.

Last gospel to be written

Unlike the synoptic gospels Jesus is a noble and divine figure, not a suffering servant.

Written by and for Jewish-Christians

John's Gospel, 1:1-5, tells us that Jesus was the preexistent and incarnate Word of God.

Jesus in John's Gospel

Other images of Jesus in the Gospel of John:

- Lamb of God- Jn. 1:29,36
- Prophet- Jn. 6:14
- Rabbi- Jn. 6:25
- Son of Man- Jn. 6:27,53,62
- Bread from Heaven- Jn. 6:33
- Bread of Life- Jn. 6:48
- Son of God- Jn. 6:40

Paul's Jesus

Paul, not a gospel writer, but his epistles speak of Jesus.

While not a disciple of Jesus' during His lifetime, Paul, a convert to "The Way" spoke and wrote of Jesus as the crucified and risen Lord.

Paul focused on the salvation offered to Jesus' followers due to His death and resurrection.

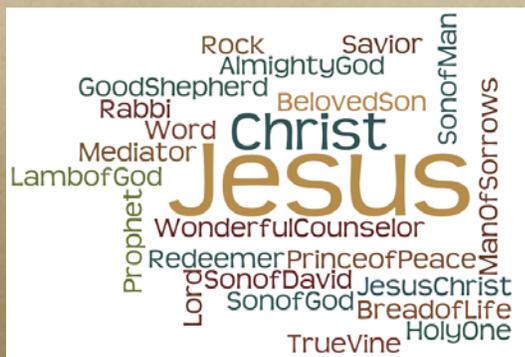
"Who do you say that I am?"

In each of the four gospels this question is asked in close relation to a feeding miracle. See Mt. 16:13-20, Mk. 8:27-31, Lk. 9:18-21 and John 6)

Peter is the disciple in each of the gospels that answers Jesus' question.

Note that the crowds to whom Jesus is referring all seem to have the same answer(s) for who Jesus supposedly is, but all are wrong.

All four gospels show Jesus in his divinity and his humanity. He is perfectly God and man.



Titles for Jesus

List some names for Jesus taken from Scripture

Which names speak to His humanity?

Which names speak to His divinity?

Can we, or should we, separate Jesus into human and divine?

Can Jesus be more of one than the other?

Images of Jesus from Catholic spirituality and devotions

- Sacred Heart of Jesus
- The Divine Mercy
- Vine
- Bread of Life
- Head of the Church
- Light of the World
- The Way, the Truth and the Life

Heresy

Almost from the beginning there have been heresies - challenges to the revealed doctrine and teaching of the Church.

Heresies forced the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, to make more precise the teaching of revealed truths.

Ecumenical Councils spoke to the challenges to the teaching of the Church.

Early Heresies

Challenges to Jesus' Humanity

Docetism- Stated that Jesus, as the Son of God, only appeared to be man.

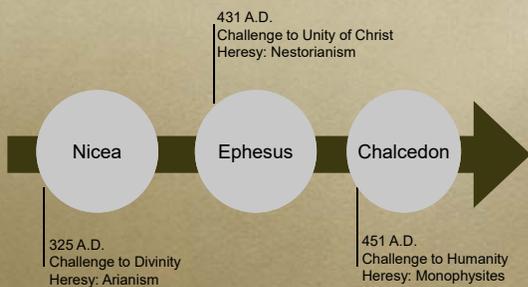
Gnosticism- Believed that only the spirit was good and things of the flesh were evil. Therefore, Jesus could not have assumed our humanity.

Heresies at a Glance

Let's take a moment to review the chart of heresies and try to identify the contrasting Catholic doctrine for each.

Handout #1

Overview of the Councils



Council of Nicea, 325 A.D.

Challenge to Divinity

Heresy: Arianism- Jesus was divine but slightly inferior to God. Jesus, though, was the highest of all creatures.

Doctrine: The Council presented its understanding of Christ's divinity by declaring that Jesus was "begotten, not made, of the same substance (*homoousios*) as the Father." From this Council we have the Nicene Creed.

Nicene Creed, 325 A.D.

"We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of all things, visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only begotten generated from the Father, that is, from the being of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, one in being (*homoousios*) with the Father from whom all things were made, those in heaven and those on earth."

Council of Ephesus, 431 A.D.

Challenge to the Unity of Christ

Heresy: Nestorianism- Stated that Jesus was two persons; one human and one divine and each had a different nature; one human and one divine. Mary, then should be called the "Mother of Christ" not the "Mother of God."

Doctrine: Since Jesus' is both divine and human in nature, but united in one person Mary is properly called the "Mother of God" or "*Theotokos*".

Council of Chalcedon, 451 A.D.

Challenge to Humanity

Heresy: Monophysites- Believed and taught that even though Jesus was both human and divine, once He became man His divine nature took over and His human nature ceased to exist.

Doctrine: Jesus is true God and true man. He is the Son of God without ceasing. Jesus is always two natures in one person.

Nicene Creed

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

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

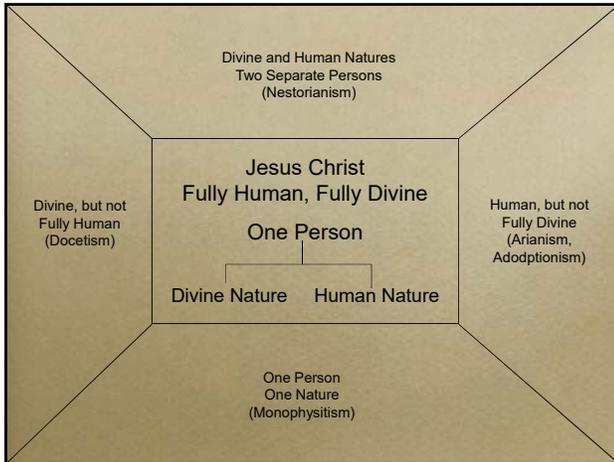
Nicene Creed (cont.)

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



Thought on Christology from
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

“[Christ’s divinity] shines forth whenever His human nature [was] humbled...If He was born of a humble maid in a stable, there were angels to announce His glory; if He lowered Himself to companionship with an ox and an ass in a manger, there was a shining star to lead Gentiles to Him as King...

...[If] He humbled Himself as a sinner to receive the baptism of John, there was a Voice from Heaven to proclaim the glory of the Eternal Son who needed no purification; if there were townspeople to reject Him and throw Him over a cliff, there was the Divine power to walk through the midst of them unharmed; if He was nailed to a Cross, there was a sun to hide its face in shame and an earth to quake in rebellion against what creatures did to its Creator; if He was laid in a tomb, there were angels to herald His Resurrection.”

Life of Christ

‘ But who do **YOU** say that I am? ’

*Matthew 16:15
Mark 8:29
Luke 9:20
(John 6:67-71)*

Jesus Christ in the World Today

- People- lay and ordained
- The head of our Church
- At Mass
- Holy Eucharist
- Living out the Gospel message
- Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Beatitudes

Q&A
