

*Student Handout  
Packet*

*Christology*  
v3.0

# **Christology**

## **Required Reading**

The following are required readings for each lesson.

### **LESSON I**

- (1) *Who do you say that I am? An Introduction to Christology ... In the Gospels and Early Church* by Gerard H, Luttenberger, pp. 1-55 (Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2)
- (2) *Catechism of the Catholic Church* nos. 422-429

### **LESSON II**

- (1) *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 56-122 (Chapters 3 & 4)

### **LESSON III**

- (1) *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 124-182 (Chapters 5 & 6)
- (2) *Catechism of the Catholic Church* nos. 535-594

### **LESSON IV**

- (1) *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 183-258 (Chapters 7 & 8)
- (2) *Catechism of the Catholic Church* nos. 595-667

### **LESSON V**

- (1) *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 260-329 (Chapters 9 & 10)
- (2) *Catechism of the Catholic Church* nos. 430-455, 464-483





With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 36-40  
(Chapter 2 – Section entitled “Christ of the Gospel of Matthew”)

- (a) What are the dominant images of Christ in the Gospel of Matthew?
- (b) What is the relationship of the new law to the old in the Gospel of Matthew? Of the new lawgiver to the old?
- (c) What implications do these images of Jesus have for those who would be his disciples?

With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 40-44  
(Chapter 2 – Section entitled “Christ of the Gospel of Luke”)

(a) What are the dominant images of Christ in the Gospel of Luke?

(b) What do these images of Jesus teach about the nature of God’s mercy?

(c) What implications do these images of Jesus have for those who would be his disciples?

With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 44-50  
(Chapter 2 – Section entitled “Christ of the Gospel of John”)

(a) What are the dominant images of Christ in the Gospel of John?

(b) What is distinctively different about the way the images of Jesus are presented in John compared to the synoptic gospels?

(c) What implications do these images of Jesus have for those who would be his disciples?

**Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation**

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. What is your understanding of God? How, in your experience have you detected the presence of God? What, in your experience, might lead you understand God as transcendent?
2. How have you experienced yourself as being transformed by Jesus for fuller life in the world and in the community?





With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 61-70  
(Chapter 3 – Section entitled “The Marcan Community”)

- (a) What were the dominant and distinguishing life-settings for the Marcan community?
- (b) How did those life-settings influence their Christological reflections and the consequent portrait of Jesus painted in the Gospel of Mark?
- (c) What image of Jesus becomes for them the true foundation for a way of discipleship and why?



With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 79-89  
(Chapter 3 – Section entitled “The Lucan Community”)

- (a) What were the dominant and distinguishing life-settings for the Lucan community?
- (b) How did those life-settings influence their Christological reflections and the consequent portrait of Jesus painted in the Gospel of Luke?
- (c) What image of Jesus becomes for them the true foundation for a way of discipleship and why?

With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 92-122 (Chapter 4)

(a) What were the dominant and distinguishing life-settings for the Johannine community?

(b) How did those life-settings influence their Christological reflections and the consequent portrait of Jesus painted in the Gospel of John?

(c) What image of Jesus becomes for them the true foundation for a way of discipleship and why?

Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. Which of the four communities that produced the gospels has a setting or set of concerns closest to yours? Do you find their Christological reflections helpful and/or challenging in your own task of doing Christology? Does their understanding of discipleship challenge or stretch you?
2. Which one of the four understandings of discipleship that comes from the four gospels as a result of their Christological reflections seems the most distant from your lived understanding of discipleship? Why do you think that is? Does this challenge you to extend or expand your idea of discipleship?







With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 140-148  
(Chapter 5 – Section entitled “Three Significant Aspects of God’s Kingdom”)

(a) What is meant by the claim that the Kingdom of God as proclaimed and revealed by Jesus is God-centered?

(b) What is the relationship between the Kingdom of God and salvation?

(c) What is meant by the claim that the Kingdom of God is both already here and yet to come?



With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 168-175  
(Chapter 6 – Section entitled “The Nature of Jesus’ Miracles”)

- (a) Why is the definition of a miracle as “a visible, tangible, extraordinary event, which cannot be explained by the laws of nature” an unhelpful and problematic definition?
- (b) What alternative definition of a miracle has been proposed by contemporary theologians?
- (c) What new or deeper understanding of the meaning of Jesus’ miracles flows from the examination of them in this new way?

Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. What implications does Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God have for how you live your life right now?
2. What does it mean for you personally as a Christian disciple to live with the reality that the Kingdom of God has already broken into the world but is not yet come in its fullness?

**Lesson 4 – Handout 1  
(Home Group Exercise)**

With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 184-195  
(Chapter 7 – Section entitled “The Cross in Jesus’ Own Experience”)

- (a) What reasons have caused some people to doubt whether Jesus both foresaw and spoke of his impending death and resurrection? How can those doubts be overcome so as to speak with assurance of both his foreknowledge and his prediction of these things?
- (b) To what extent did Jesus understand and to what extent and how did he make manifest an understanding of his death as having salvific effects?
- (c) To what extent did Jesus understand and to what extent and how did he make manifest an understanding of his death as a self-emptying event.

With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 195-205  
(Chapter 7 – Section entitled “The Cross: Its Significance and Power for Salvation”)

- (a) Define what is meant by the term “salvation”.
- (b) What is meant by the Biblical testimony that the cross is redemptive?
- (c) What is meant by the Biblical testimony that the cross is expiatory?
- (d) What is meant by the Biblical testimony that Jesus’ death is a sacrifice?
- (e) What is meant by the Biblical image of the pouring forth of Christ’s blood?

With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 206-213  
(Chapter 7 – Section entitled “The Saving Power of Jesus’ Death: Christian Tradition”)

(a) Explain what is meant by the Reparation theory of Jesus’ death.

(b) Explain what is meant by the Satisfaction theory of Jesus’ death.

(c) Explain what is meant by the Penal Substitution theory of Jesus’ death.

(d) Explain what is meant by the Representation theory of Jesus’ death.

(e) Explain Karl Rahner’s understanding of the meaning of Jesus’ death.

With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 219-238 (Chapter 8 – Section entitled “Experience and Understanding of the Resurrection in the New Testament Churches”)

- (a) What did early Christian communities mean by the claim that the Resurrection is God’s final deed in human history?
- (b) What is the Biblical testimony for and the early Christian communities’ understanding of the claim that the Resurrection marks a transformation of Jesus – both body and soul – with divine life?
- (c) Why did early Christian communities believe that Jesus’ Resurrection had implications for them personally and not just for Jesus?





**Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation**

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. How able are you to hold in tension both the idea that Jesus suffered real human agony as he faced the certainty of his passion and death and the idea that Jesus had complete trust and faith in his Abba? What meaning for yourself do you take from this tension?
2. What are the implications of Christ's resurrection for your daily life of faith?

**Lesson 5 – Handout 1**  
**(Home Group Exercise)**

With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 265-273  
(Chapter 9 – Section entitled “The Divinity of Jesus: Its Affirmation and Meaning”)

(a) What is the meaning of the philosophical term *logos* and why did early Christian theologians consider it to be helpful in understanding who Jesus is?

(b) Who was Arius? What was the substance of his teaching? What did the Christian community decide about what he taught and how did they do so?

(c) What does the term *homoousious* mean and in what context is it used in Christology?

With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 274-283  
(Chapter 9 – Section entitled “Jesus’ Integral Humanity: Its Affirmation and Salvific Import”)

- (a) What is meant by the description *logos-sarx* Christology? Where and by whom was this Christology most developed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (b) What is meant by the description *logos-anthropos* Christology? Where and by whom was this Christology most developed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (c) How did the Council of Constantinople in 381 resolve this dispute?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (d) What implications flowed from the decisions of the Council of Constantinople?

With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 290-297 (Chapter 10 – Section entitled “Jesus: One Person in Two Natures” up to subsection entitled “The Conciliar Formulae”)

- (a) Define the technical philosophical terms *prosopon*, *hypostasis*, *ousia*, and *physis*.
- (b) What is at stake in the question of how the divine and human are related in Jesus?
- (c) What decisions were made, by whom, when, and where regarding an orthodox understanding of the relationship of the human and divine in Jesus?
- (d) What are some of the immediate consequences of that decision?



With reference to *An Introduction to Christology* pp. 314-322  
(Chapter 10 – Subsection entitled “Jesus’ Freedom and Sinlessness”)

(a) What is meant by the philosophical terms “freedom of choice” and “transcendental freedom”?

(b) In what ways can Jesus be said to have enjoyed authentic human freedom?

(c) Was Jesus’ sinlessness merely an empirical fact or a transcendental necessity?

(d) What is the impact or import of Jesus’ sinlessness on the rest of humanity?

**Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation**

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. What difference will it make to your lived spirituality to have come to a deeper understanding of the reasons for and meaning behind the classic Christological definitions?
2. What have you learned in this course that has left the deepest and most lasting impression and why?



# FTCM COURSE EVALUATION

Instructor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Course Title: **Christology v3.0**

FTCM Center: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name:(optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate the value of each of these methods as used in this course:**

	Very Useful	Somewhat Useful	Not Useful	Not Applicable
Instructor's Lecture Portion				
Small Group Exercises				
Large Group Discussion Periods				
Question and Answer Periods				
Prayers				

**Please rate the instructor and course as follows:**

	Very Effective	Somewhat Effective	Not Effective	Not applicable
Instructor's ability to clearly explain difficult concepts				
Instructor's willingness/ ability to answer questions				
Instructor's ability to handle difficult people				
Use of the Catechism and Scripture in most lessons				
Overall rating of the Instructor				
Overall rating of content covered in the course				

Would you recommend this course to a friend? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not?