

“WORD OF LIFE”

September 06, 2021

CHRIST IN HIS PERSON

A. In the Godhead

1 - The Complete God

✚ GOD BREATHED (2 Tim 3:16):

Isaiah 9:6 - For a **child** is born to us, A **Son** is given to us; ... And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**, **Eternal Father**, Prince of Peace.

✚ THE EXCELLENCY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST (Phil. 3:8):

➤ Who is Christ in the Godhead, and what is He in the Godhead?

- In the **Godhead** our Christ is the **complete God**.
- **He is the Triune God**—the **Father**, the **Son**, and the **Spirit**.
- From eternity past to eternity future, **He is God**.
 - **John 1:1** says,
“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
 - **Heb. 7:3** says,
“without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life”.
 - **Romans 9:5** speaks of,
“Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever.”
 - **Isaiah 9:6** says,
“Unto us a child is born...his name shall be called...The mighty God.”
 - **Hebrews 1:8** indicates that **Christ is God**,
“But as to the Son, Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.”

➤ All the Fullness of the Godhead Dwelling in Him Bodily

- **Colossians 2:9** says, “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”
- The **fullness of the Godhead is the entire Godhead**, including the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.
- As the embodiment of the fullness of the Godhead, **Christ is not only** the Son of God **but also** the entire God.
- The fact that all the **fullness** of the Godhead **dwells in Christ bodily** means that the Triune God is fully embodied in Him.

➤ The Effulgence of God’s Glory and the Express Image of God’s Substance

- **Hebrews 1:3** says,
“the effulgence of His glory and the express image of His substance.”
- The **effulgence** of God’s glory **is like** the shining, or the brightness, of the light of the sun.
- Christ is the shining, the brightness, of the Father’s **glory**.
 - the **effulgence** cannot be separated from the **glory**
(just as the shining of the sun cannot be separated from the rays of the sun, since the shining and the rays are one)
 - the **glory** is the outward expression,
 - and the **substance** is the inward essence
- God has His essence as well as His appearance
- He has His substance (within) as well as His glory, His expression (without)
 - as far as His **glory** is concerned, Christ is the **effulgence** of this glory,
 - as far as God’s **substance** is concerned, Christ is the **express image** of this substance

- For Christ to be the effulgence of God's glory and the express image of His substance **means** that **He is God coming to us**.
 - Christ as the impress, the express image, of God's substance is God coming to us.
 - Christ is God reaching us, God coming to be one with us.
 - Christ, the Son of God, is God Himself reaching us and coming to us.
 - we have a God who reaches us, a God who comes to us to save us and to dispense Himself into us.
- **Colossians 1:15** and **2 Corinthians 4:4** say that Christ is the "*image of God*."
 - God is invisible, but Christ is His image, expressing what He is.
 - image is the expression of God's being in all His attributes.
 - to say that Christ is the image of God implies that He is the very God, the Creator.

➤ **Subsisting in the Form of God, in Equality with God**

- **Philippians 2:6** says,
 - "*Who subsisting in the form of God did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped.*"
 - "**subsisting**" **denotes** existing from the beginning;
 - it **implies** Christ's eternal preexistence.
 - "**form**" **refers** to the expression, **not** the fashion, of God's being.
- It is **identified** with the essence and nature of God's person and thus expresses His essence and nature. This refers to **Christ's deity**, Christ is equal with God.

➤ **The Mystery of God**

- **Colossians 2:2** speaks of "*the mystery of God, Christ.*"
 - **Christ** is the **embodiment**, **definition**, and **explanation** of God.
 - as the mystery of God Christ is the **story** of God.
- **What is the history of God, the story of God?**
 - God is infinite and eternal, without beginning or ending.
 - In the beginning, in eternity past, God had a good **pleasure**, the desire of His heart.
 - Based on this good pleasure, which is the desire of His heart, God made a **plan**.
 - The biblical term for this plan is **purpose**.
 - This purpose is **to have a group of living beings to be His corporate expression**.
 - According to His good pleasure, God **created** the heavens and the earth and all the billions of items in the universe.
 - God's history refers to the **process** through which He has passed **so that He may dispense Himself** into His chosen people.
- As the mystery of God, **Christ is the immeasurable, infinite, and eternal God**.

✚ **SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE ALL THE WORDS OF THIS LIFE (Act 5:20):**

- ✚ All the **fullness of the Godhead** dwells in Christ bodily, amen, the Triune God is fully **embodied in Him**.
- ✚ Christ is the **effulgence of God's glory**, and the express image of His substance. Christ as the impress, the express image, of God's substance is **God coming to us**. Amen, **Christ is God reaching us**, God coming to be one with us.
- ✚ Christ **subsist in the form of God**, amen, Christ is **equal with God**.
- ✚ When we have Christ, God is open to us. **Christ as the mystery of God** is the **explanation**, **interpretation**, and **definition** of God. Through Him **we know God** and **even are brought into God**.