

I. The Person of Jesus Christ

A. Humanity of Christ - Fully Man, Fully God

1. **Incarnation of Christ** - The incarnation is the means by which the eternal divine Christ took on humanity.

a. The Purpose

1. To reveal God to men

1. *No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. (John 1:18)*

2. To take away sin

1. *Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'" Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them " (which are offered according to the law), then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. (Heb. 10:5-13)*

3. To serve as our high priest before God

1. *Heb 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

4. To serve as an example of obedience to God

1. *1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:*

5. To fulfill the Davidic Covenant – The promise of an earthly eternal king in David's line

1. *Luke 1:31-33 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*

b. **How it happened**

1. **Virgin Birth** - Scripture teaches that He had a Human Parentage; That He was born of a Woman - The Virgin Mary

a. **Christ was not conceived humanly – Mary was a virgin**

1. *Luke 1:27, 34 "to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. / Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"*
2. *Matt 1:18, 25 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.*
3. *Galatians 4:4 "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman"*

b. **Christ is conceived by the Holy Spirit**

1. *Matt 1:20 "But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."*

c. **The conception was exclusively God's work and as a result Jesus was a unique "holy offspring" – The Son of God**

1. *Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*

d. **The incarnation was a miraculous birth**

1. *Luke 1:37 or with God nothing will be impossible."*

2. **Is it important to affirm the Virgin birth? Absolutely!**

a. **Shows us that Salvation did not come about by human effort.**

1. *Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and **her Seed**; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

b. **The virgin birth makes possible the full deity and humanity in one person**

1. If Christ was sinful man, his life and death would be no different from ours! He is fully man and fully God!

c. **Makes possible Christ's true humanity without inherited sin from Adam**

1. *Luke 1:34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"*

d. **Catholics make the claim that Jesus was free from sin because Mary was sinless. Doctrine of Immaculate conception. Made official Catholic teaching in 1854 by the pope. The Bible does not teach this.**

2. Human Weaknesses and Limitations

1. There was a heresy in the early church "Docetism" - Jesus only looked like a man, He wasn't really a man.

1. **If He is not truly a man he cannot be our representative - we need the record of His perfect life to be imputed to us.**

1. *Roman 5:18-19 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.*

2. **In order to be substitute for us. Therefore He had (requirement) to be made like his brother to make propitiation (one who bears God's wrath.)**

1. *Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

3. **Pattern for our redeemed body**

1. *1 Cor 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*

4. **To be a sympathetic High Priest**

1. *Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

2. Human Weaknesses and Limitations

1. **He had a human body.**

1. **He was born physically**

1. *Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

2. **He developed as humans do; grew and became strong**

1. *Luke 2:40, 52 And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. / and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

3. **He had the appearance of a man.**

1. *Luke 24:13-16 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.*
 2. *John 20:15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"*
She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him,
 4. **When he died his body remained on the earth and His soul left.**
 5. **After resurrection he still has a physical body (Thomas / eating fish)**
 1. *Luke 24:38-40 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.*
 6. **When he ascended He took His body with Him**
 1. *Acts 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*
2. **He had human needs.**
1. **Food**
 1. *Matt 4:2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.*
 2. *Luke 24:41-43 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence.*
 2. **Drink**
 1. *John 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"*
 3. **He was tired at points**
 1. *John 4:6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.*
3. **He had human intellect. His wisdom "increased" humanly**

1. *Luke 2:40,52 And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. / and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*
2. **He learned obedience** - (though He didn't sin, yet as He grew older the challenges to obedience became more difficult)
 1. *Heb 5:8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*
4. **He had human emotions.**
 1. **Love**
 1. *Matt 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.*
 2. *John 11:36 Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"*
 2. **Grief / Sorrow**
 1. *John 11:35 Jesus wept.*
 2. *Matt.26:38 "Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."*
 3. **Troubled**
 1. *John 12:27 Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.*
5. **He had human will.**
 1. **He desired not to suffer**
 1. *Matt.26:39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*
 2. **He determined to go to Jerusalem to suffer obediently**
 1. *Luke 9:51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,*
6. **He is called a man.**
 1. **By Himself**
 1. *Luke 19:10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*
 2. **By others**
 1. *1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus*

B. The Deity of Christ

1. **Sinless - Did not sin.**

1. *Luke 4:13 Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.*
 2. *John 8:29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."*
 3. *John 15:10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*
 4. *John 18:38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.*
 5. *2nd Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
 6. *Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*
 7. *1 John 3:5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.*
2. **Was Tempted** - Matthew 4:1-11; Heb 5:8
1. **Could Jesus have sinned?**
 1. *James 1:13 God cannot be tempted with evil*
 2. If Jesus' human nature had existed by itself it would have been sinless but able to sin. Jesus human nature never did exist by itself Any act of sin would have involved the whole person... So Jesus could not have sinned
 2. **How could his temptations be real, He resisted in His human nature in the power of the Holy Spirit.**
 1. We have the Holy Spirit. But He had the fullness of the Spirit from Birth.
 2. English Channel Swimmer.
3. **He has Divine Titles.**
1. **Called the Lord - Kurios**
 1. *Luke 2:11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*
 2. *Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"*
 2. **Son of God** - Given to Christ 40 times
 1. *Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*
 2. *John 5:17-18 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.*
 3. **I AM**
 1. *John 8:53-59 Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and*

was glad.” Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

4. He receives worship.

1. Of angels

1. *Heb.1:6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: Let all the angels of God worship Him.*
2. *Rev.5:12-13 “ Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”*

2. Of men

1. *John 9:35-38 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.*
2. *John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”*
3. *Matt.28:9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.*

5. He possesses incommunicable attributes.

1. Pre-existence

1. *John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
2. *John 8:58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”*
3. *John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*
4. *Phil 2:6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God*
5. *Col 1:16-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

2. Self-existence

1. *Heb.7:3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.*
2. *John 5:26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,*

3. Immutability

1. *Heb.1:10 You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.*
2. *Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*
4. **Eternality**
 1. *Heb.7:3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.*
5. **Omnipresence**
 1. *Matt.28:20 I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*
6. **Omniscience**
 1. *John 16:30 Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.*
 2. *John 2:24-25 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, **25** and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.*
 3. *Col 2:3 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, **3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
7. **All the fullness of the Godhead bodily**
 1. *Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily*
6. **He participates in the function of deity.**
 1. **He created the world**
 1. *John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*
 2. **He sustains the world**
 1. *Col.1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*
 2. *Heb 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power*
 3. **He forgives sins**
 1. *Matt.9:1-2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."*
 2. *Mark 2:5-11 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, **7** "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? **9** Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say,*

'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

3. *Luke 7:48 Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."*

4. He performs final judgment

1. *John 5:22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,*

2. *Rev. 19:11-16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

7. Jesus claimed to be God

1. *John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.*

2. *John 8:29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.*

3. *John 10:30-33 I and My Father are one." Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."*

8. Other explicit claims

1. Paul calls Jesus God

1. *Romans 9:5*

2. *Titus 2:13*

3. *Hebrew 1:8*

4. *2nd Peter 1:1*

II. The Work of Christ

1. The Functions of His earthly life: While on earth Christ fulfilled the functions of Prophet, Priest and King:

1. Christ was God's Prophet

1. *Matt. 13:57 So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house."*

1. *Luke 13:33. Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem*

2. Christ was the ultimate fulfillment of the office of prophet as predicted by Moses

1. *Deut. 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,*

2. *Acts 3:22-26 Fulfilled*

3. He delivered God's message to man by constant teaching and preaching

1. *Matthew 7:29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

2. *Matthew 11:1 He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.*

2. Christ was man's High Priest

1. *Heb. 4:14-16; 6:20-7:3; 7:26-28; 9:11-14; 10:11-14).*

2. **As our human High Priest Christ could experience our weaknesses and temptations (Heb. 4:14-18).**

3. **As the sinless Son of God, Christ was the unique High Priest who could offer Himself as the once-for-all sacrifice for our sins**

1. *Heb.7:26-28 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.*
2. *Heb 10:11-14).*

3. **Christ came as King**

1. *Matt.27:11*
2. **The prophets and the angel Gabriel predicted that Jesus would come as the King of Israel**
 1. *Is.9:6,7 - Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom*
 2. *Luke 1:32-33 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"*

2. **The Death of Christ**

1. **The Importance:** Christianity is a religion of atonement distinctively. The elimination of the doctrine of the death of Christ from the religion that bears His name would mean the surrender of its uniqueness and claim to be the only true religion, the supreme and final revelation from God to the sons of men. It is its redemptive feature that distinguishes Christianity from any and all other religions. If you surrender this distinctive Christian doctrine from its creed, then this supreme religion is brought down to the level of many other religious systems. Christianity is not merely a system of ethics; it is the history of redemption through Jesus Christ, the Redeemer.
2. **Scripture describes death in a fourfold manner**
 1. As a Ransom
 2. A Propitiation
 3. As a Reconciliation
 4. As a Substitution
3. **The Extent of Christ's Death**
 1. **For all Mankind**
 1. *Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*
 2. *1 Tim 2:6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time*
 3. *1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*
 4. *2 Cor 5:19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*
 2. **Individual**
 1. *Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

3. Sinful, Unjust and Ungodly

1. *Rom 5:6-8 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
2. *1 Tim 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*

3. The Resurrection of Christ

1. The Importance

1. *1 Cor 15:14-19 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.*
2. It is spoken of in the NT more than 100 times!
3. Jesus stuck around for 40 days after his resurrection to give proof to this fact.

2. Proofs of Christ's resurrection

1. He said he would

1. *Matt 17:22-23 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up."*

2. The tomb was empty

1. *Matt.28:1-4.*
2. If the body had been stolen by the Romans, they could have produced it to disprove the resurrection (*Matt.28:11-15*).
3. If the disciples had stolen the body it is impossible that they would have been willing to die for a lie (*Acts 4:1-22; 5:17-42; 7:54-60; 12:1,2*).

3. **Christ appeared numerous time** (*John 20:11-18; Matt.28:8-10; 1 Cor.15:5; Luke 24:13-32; 36-43; John 20:26-29; 21:1-14; 1 Cor.15:6,7; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:9-12*). The sheer numbers of witnesses explains why 2 months later Peter's claim that Christ was raised were not contradicted (*Acts 2:14-42*).

1. 500 Witnesses
2. Road to Emmaus *Luke 24*
3. Appeared to the disciples and the 2 men on the road to emmaus (*Luke 24:39*)
4. Thomas *John 20:27* Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."
5. Disciples on the Sea of Galilee

3. The Nature of Christ's resurrection.

1. It was a physical bodily resurrection (*Luke 24:39-43; John 20:27*).

2. Christ's resurrection body was not merely a "spiritual" or immaterial body.
3. It was His physical body literally raised and gloriously transformed (John 20:19).
4. **The significance of Christ's resurrection**
 1. Christ's resurrection proves the trustworthiness of Christ's word (Matt.28:6) and of Scripture (1 Cor.15:4; Psalm 16:8).
 2. Christ's resurrection proves the validity of trusting in Christ's death for salvation ("The gospel" – 1 Cor.15:1-5,14,17).
4. **The Ascension and Present Ministry of Christ**
 1. He could not dwell here on the earth but need to ascend to heaven, that He might present Himself to the Father, and take His place at the right hand of the throne of God. He is also the bestower of all spiritual gifts. Especially the Gift of the Holy Spirit
 2. **The Nature of His ascension**
 1. **Bodily and Visible**
 1. *Acts 1:9 now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*
 2. *Luke 24:51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.*
 2. **He passed through the heavens**
 1. *Eph 4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)*
 2. *Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*
 3. *Heb 7:26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;*
 3. **He took his place at the right hand of the father.**
 1. *Eph 1:20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*
 2. *Col 3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.*
 3. **After His resurrection Christ ascended to heaven; He now has numerous functions relating to believers.**
 1. **Christ is building His church**
 1. *Matt.16:18 You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. / On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*
 2. **Christ is leading His body the Church**
 1. *Eph.1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, **23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*
 2. *Col.1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.*
 3. **Christ is praying for believers**
 1. *Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

1. He prays for our protection from Satan and sin
 1. *John 17:15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one*
2. He prays for our unity
 1. John 17:20-23
3. He prays for help in our times of need
 1. *Heb.4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*
4. He prays for our recovery from sin and continues fellowship
 1. *1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*
2. **Christ is involved in answering our prayers**
 1. *John 14:13-14 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*
3. **Christ gives us strength in difficult circumstances**
 1. *Phil.4:13 I can do all thing through Christ who strengthens me.*
4. **Christ is enabling us to be fruitful in ministry**
 1. *John 15:1-16 Abiding in Him*
5. **Christ is preparing a place for us in heaven**
 1. *John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*