

Divine Relationships - Christ's Relation to the Individual

The Relation of the Father to the Christ

- The Father, as the First Source and Center of all creation, is absolute perfection in every way. In Him is all there is and all there can ever be. He does not need to experience anything in order to know it. He is existential – meaning that everything that could ever be known already exists in Him. This absolute nature makes it difficult, if not impossible, for mortal man to have direct dealing with him.
- One way the Father interacts with his mortal creations is by granting a spirit fragment of himself to reside in our minds.
- Another way the Father interacts with us is by means of his Son. We are told:

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” – *Isaiah 55:8-9*

- This separation is too great for man to span.
“For who has known the mind of the LORD, that he will instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.” – *1 Corinthians 2:16*
- “Then Jesus cried out,
“And Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me. “He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. “I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness. “If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. “For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. “I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.” – *John 12:44-50*
“All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.” – *Matthew 11:27*

The Activities of the Christ as Sovereign

- The Christ' role is described in Colossians
“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.” – *Colossians 1:13-20*
- In our universe, the Christ was the first creation and he, in turn, created everything in our universe, the visible and the invisible.

- God appointed the Christ to this position.
- And while this position was powerful and made him the sovereign of his universe, he was only a vicegerent – an appointed sovereign.
- Though he had the legal right to exercise his sovereignty in all matters, we learn in the book of Jude that the Christ (also known by the title Michael) refused to exercise that authority as to matters of judgment - *Jude 1:9*



- Instead, he patiently and humbly waited until he had earned the right by completing the work the Father gave him to do. He appeared on earth in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

“Therefore, since 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 One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” – *Hebrews 4:14-16*

- And after he faithfully completed that mission, he was elevated to the position of a true sovereign in his own right -

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” – *Philippians 2:5-11*

The Activities of the Christ on Behalf of Mankind

- In the person of Jesus, the Christ demonstrated how a son of man could reach the pinnacle of humanity and enter into the Kingdom of the Heavens
- Before Christ's appearance on earth, man had only the hope of living a few years on a troubled planet under stressful conditions until he died and returned to dust. The Hebrew view gradually improved from viewing Him as a vengeful, jealous God to the loving God and the Father of a nation.

- The Father determined that man was ready for the “revealing of the sons of God” whereby the Christ would reveal God as their individual Father

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.” – *Romans 8:18-23*

- This revealing showed they would be adopted in to the Kingdom of the Heavens and become spirit sons of the Father where they would be released from the fleshly bodies and given new, incorruptible ones. - *1 Corinthians 15:52*

“But just as it is written, “things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that god has prepared for those who love him.”” – *1 Corinthians 2:9*

- The earth will not be left uninhabited:
“For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), “I am the LORD, and there is none else.” – *Isaiah 45:18*

- The earth provides potential human sons of God.
- In Christ Jesus, we have two exemplars:
 1. the powerful, loving, Son of God - sovereign of our universe
 2. the humble, loving, exemplar of our faith, our older brother Jesus, the Son of Man
- The Christ, manifest in Jesus, was born as a helpless babe who had to grow to manhood as any other mortal of the realm; lived as a perfected man and teacher of heavenly ideals; and died as a faithful man, invincible in the face of an ignominious death. Jesus promised that after his resurrection, he would send the Spirit of Truth that would continue to teach us about all things: “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.” - *John 16:13-14*

- We have now three ways in which the Father communes with us:
 1. Through His Son, the Christ, who was the exact representation of God's very being –

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.” - *Hebrews 1:1-2*

2. Through the Son's spirit of truth –
“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.” - *John 16:12-15*

3. And through the Father's own divine fragment whereby the Father knows the very hairs of our head –
“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” - *1 Corinthians 3:16*