

The Offices of Christ

Men of the Word

The Coming REdeemer

- A Unique Man is coming (Gen. 3:15).
- Thru Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3)
- Thru Isaac (Gen. 17:19)
- Thru Jacob (Gen. 25:23)
- Thru Judah (Gen. 49:10)
- Thru David (2 Sam. 7:16)
- Eventually called "The Anointed One."

Prophet, Priest, & King

- Prophet: revealed God's Word to the people on God's behalf.
- Priest: offered sacrifices and prayers to God on behalf of the people.
- King: ruled over the people of God on God's behalf.

The Reformation Creeds

- The Westminster Confession:
- "It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King."

The Reformation Creeds

- Westminster Larger Catechism
- Why was our Mediator called Christ?
 - A. Our Mediator was called Christ, because he was anointed with the Holy Ghost above measure; and so set apart, and fully furnished with all authority and ability, to execute the offices of prophet, priest, and king of his Church, in the estate both of his humiliation and exaltation.

The Reformation Creeds

- Westminster Shorter Catechism
- What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?
 - A. Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

The Reformation Creeds

- The Baptist Confession of 1689 [updated]
- "This office of Mediator between God and man is proper only to Christ, who is the Prophet, Priest, and King of the Church of God."
... "This number and order of offices is essential. Because of our ignorance we need his prophetic office. Because of our alienation from God and the imperfection of the best of our service, we need his priestly office to reconcile us and present us to God as acceptable. Because of our aversion to, and utter inability to return to God, and for our rescue and keeping from spiritual enemies, we need his kingly office to convince, subdue, draw, uphold, deliver, and preserve us until we reach his heavenly kingdom."

I. Christ Our Prophet

- Westminster Larger Cat. 43: How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?
 - A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in his revealing to the church, in all ages, by his Spirit and Word, and in divers ways of administration, the whole will of God, in all things concerning their edification and salvation.
- Westminster Shorter Cat. 24: How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?
 - A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation?

Christ Our Prophet

- **The OT Background**

- Moses was the first major prophet.
- Ex. 4:1-2, 15-16; 6:28—7:2
- Three criteria for discerning a true prophet:
 - (1) Deut. 18:21-22 says that the true prophet's predictions must always come true.
 - (2) Deut. 13:1-5 says that if God chose to authenticate a true prophet, He would do so by empowering him to work miracles—as he did with Moses.
 - (3) Also Deut. 13 says that the true prophet's message must always be in complete doctrinal agreement with previous revelation.
- Deut. 18:15-19

Christ our prophet

- **His Work as our Prophet**

- 1) All the other prophets prophesied about Jesus!
 - Luke 24:25-26, 27
- 2) Jesus didn't merely receive the truth from the Father—although He did—but He had the right and authority to speak authoritatively Himself.
 - Matt. 5:22 – “You have heard..., but I say to you.”
 - Heb. 1:1-2

Christ the Prophet

- Before the incarnation...
- 1) He revealed the truth of God to mankind through various theophanies, especially The Angel of the Lord.
 - 1 Tim. 2:5 - For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus,
- 2) He revealed the truth of God through His Spirit to the OT prophets.
 - 1 Pet. 1:10-11 - As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

Christ the prophet

- Jesus referred to himself as a prophet.
 - Luke 13:33 - "I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next *day*; for it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside of Jerusalem.

Christ the Prophet

- The people often speculated and even acknowledged Him to be the prophet.
 - Matt. 21:11 - And the crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee."
 - Matt. 21:46 - When they sought to seize Him, they feared the people, because they considered Him to be a prophet.
 - Luke 24:19 - And Jesus said to [the Emmaus Road disciples], "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people,
 - John 6:14 - Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Christ the prophet

- During the incarnation
- 1) He revealed the Father in his person.
 - John 1:14-18
- 2) He brought new revelation to God's people.
 - John 8:26-28; 12:49-50; 14:10, 24; 15:15; 17:8, 20
- 3) He taught God's truth.
 - Matt. 4:17; 5—7
- 4) He predicted the future.
 - Matt. 24 – 25; Luke 19:41-44

Christ the Prophet

- Since the incarnation...
- 1) Through his Spirit and the writing of his apostles He has continued to reveal the truth to us.
 - John 16:12-15
- 2) Through his Spirit, He illumines our understanding of the Word.
 - 1 Cor. 2:16; 1 Pet. 1:10-11

Christ the Prophet

- Since the incarnation...
- 3) He gives gifted men to the church in order to equip his people.
 - Eph. 4:11-12
- 4) He teaches us through his example.
 - John 13:15; Phil. 2:5; 1 Pet. 2:22

Christ our prophet

- Hodge: “Since His ascension He performs the same office not only in the fuller revelation of the gospel made to the Apostles and in their inspiration as infallible teachers, but also in the institution of the ministry and constantly calling men to that office, and by the influence of the Holy Spirit, who cooperates with the truth in every human heart, and renders it effectual to the sanctification and salvation of His own people.”

II. Christ Our Priest

- Westminster Larger Cat. 44 How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?
 - A. Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering himself a sacrifice without spot to God, to be a reconciliation for the sins of his people; and in making continual intercession for them.
- Westminster Shorter Cat. 25 How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?
 - A. Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

Christ our priest

- **The OT Background**
- Heb. 5:1-2 - Every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins;² he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness;
- The priest's role, then, was to represent man to God.
- The OT tells us that the Messiah would be a priest.
 - Ps. 110:1-4
 - Zech. 6:13 - "Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices."

Christ our priest

- **His Work as our Priest**
 - The letter to the Hebrews repeatedly calls Jesus a priest, or our great High Priest.
 - Heb. 3:1; 4; 14; 5:5; 6:20; 7:26; 8:1

Christ our priest

- **A) Our Lord offered Himself as the Perfect Sacrifice for sin.**
 - John 1:29 - The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
 - Mark 10:45 - "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
 - Rom. 3:25-26
 - 1 Cor. 5:7 - Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

Christ our priest

- **A) Our Lord offered Himself as the Perfect Sacrifice for sin.**
 - 1 Pet. 1:19 – [we were redeemed] with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.
 - 1 Pet. 2:24 - He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross.
 - Heb. 9:26 – But now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.
 - Heb. 2:17; 4:14; 7:23-27; 9:14
 - Heb. 9:28—10:1-18

Christ our priest

- **A) Our Lord offered Himself as the Perfect Sacrifice for sin.**
- **B) Our Lord continues to represent us before the Father.**
 - Jesus priesthood is eternal!
 - Heb. 7:25 - Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
 - Specifically, Christ serves as priest for His own.
 - Heb. 7:25 - Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
 - John 17:9 - "I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours;

CHRIST OUR PRIEST

- How does Jesus serve us as our priest?
- 1) He entered the true Holy of Holies and presented His perfect sacrifice to the Father.
 - Heb. 8:2 – [He is] a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.
 - Heb. 9:24 - Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a *mere* copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;
- 2) He prays for the eventual salvation of all of the elect.
 - John 17:20
 - Cf. Acts 18:9-10 - the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid *any longer*, but go on speaking and do not be silent; ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city."

CHRIST OUR PRIEST

- How does Jesus serve us as our priest?
- 3) He defends us against all charges that are brought against us (i.e., pardon for our daily sins).
 - Rom. 8:33- 34
 - Cf. Rev. 12:10 - I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

CHRIST OUR PRIEST

- How does Jesus serve us as our priest?
- 4) He prays for the sanctification of all true believers.
 - John 17:17 (cf. 7:20)
- 5) He helps us in our trials and temptations.
 - Heb. 2:18; 4:15

CHRIST OUR PRIEST

- How does Jesus serve us as our priest?
- 6) He prays for the protection and perseverance of the saints.
 - Luke 22:31-32
- 7) He sanctifies our prayers, our worship, and all our spiritual activities to make them acceptable to God.
 - 1 Peter 2:5 - you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

CHRIST OUR PRIEST

- How does Jesus serve us as our priest?
- 8) He prays for the eventual glorification of his people.
 - John 17:24 - "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

The Practical Ramifications

- 1) No man is our priest!
 - (a) The word *priest* is never once applied to them in the NT.
 - (b) No priestly function is ever attributed to pastors or elders.
 - (c) All believers are called priests with direct access to God through Christ.
 - (d) This idea is insulting and derogatory to Christ.
 - (e) The people of God in all ages have availed themselves of direct access to God through Christ, even when they have been taught otherwise.

The practical ramifications

- 2) We do not go through Mary or the saints to get to gain a hearing with the Father.
 - (a) There are no saints whose works merit a hearing.
 - (b) It leads to idolatry.
 - (c) It is demeaning to Christ.
 - (d) It is contrary to Scripture.
 - (e) It turns men from their Creator to the creature.

The Practical Ramifications

- 3) What Jesus prays for always happens.
 - John 11:42

III. Christ Our King

- Westminster Larger Cat. 45: How doth Christ execute the office of a king?
 - A. Christ executes the office of a king, in calling out of the world a people to himself, and giving them officers, laws, and censures, by which he visibly governs them; in bestowing saving grace upon his elect, rewarding their obedience, and correcting them for their sins, preserving and supporting them under all their temptations and sufferings, restraining and overcoming all their enemies, and powerfully ordering all things for his own glory, and their good; and also in taking vengeance on the rest, who know not God, and obey not the gospel.

III. Christ Our King

- Westminster Shorter Cat. 26: How doth Christ execute the office of a king?
 - A. Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Christ our King

- **The OT Background**

- Gen. 49:10 - "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him *shall be* the obedience of the peoples.
- Num. 24:17 - "A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel.
- 2 Sam. 7:16 - "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.""
- Ps. 2:6 - the Father announced the eventual installation of His Son as king.

Christ our King

- **The OT Background**

- Ps. 110 - Messiah will eventually subjugate all of his enemies and rule over them.
- Is. 9:6-7; Dan. 7:13-14
- Micah 5:2 - "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."
- Zech. 9:9 - Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Christ our King

- **His Work as our King**
- Jesus is clearly a King.
 - Matt. 25:31 - "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.
 - Luke 1:31-33
 - Rev. 1:5 – Jesus Christ...the ruler of the kings of the earth.
 - Rev. 19:16 - On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Christ our King

- Before the incarnation...
 - Jesus reigned as King over his people through the various leaders, judges, and kings He raised up.
 - He was predicted to come as a King: the fulfillment of the OT promises made to David that one of his descendants would sit on the throne (2 Sam. 7:16).
 - NT: Luke 1:31-33

Christ as king

- During the incarnation...
- Jesus was born, King of the Jews.
 - Matt. 2:2 - "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."
- John the Baptist proclaimed it (Matt. 3:1-2).
- Jesus came introducing and proclaiming His kingdom.
 - Mark 1:14-15 - Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Christ as King

- Hodge: “He is the king of every believing soul. He translates it from the kingdom of darkness. He brings it into subjection to himself. He rules and reigns over it. Every believer recognizes Christ as his absolute sovereign; Lord of his inward, as well as of his outward life. He yields to him the entire subjection of the reason, of the conscience, and of the heart. He makes him the object of reverence, love, and obedience. In him he trusts for protection from all enemies, seen and unseen. On him he relies for help in every emergency, and for final triumph. On him the loyalty of the believer terminates. To acquit himself as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, to spend and be spent in his service and in the promotion of his kingdom, becomes the governing purpose of his life.”

christ as king

- Since the incarnation...
 - At the time of his ascension and his session at the right hand of God, Jesus publicly and formally assumed his throne and inaugurated his kingdom.
 - Acts 2:29-36; Phil. 2:5-11
 - Cf. Acts 13:33 - God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.'

Christ our king

- Berkhof: “Christ was formally invested with this kingship over the universe when he was exalted at the right hand of God. It was a promised reward of his labors. This invested sure was part of the exultation of the God man. It did not give him any power or authority which he did not already possess as the Son of God; neither did it increase His territory. But the God Man, the Mediator, was now made the possessor of this authority, and His human nature was made to share in the glory of this royal dominion.”

Christ our king

- Since the incarnation...
- 1) He effectually calls the elect unto himself.
 - Is. 55:5; John 10:16, 27
- 2) He reigns as sovereign Head over His church.
 - Eph. 1:20-22; 4:15; 5: 23; Col. 1:18; 2:19
- 3) He directs the church's worship by His Word, and He governs its leadership.
 - Matt. 18:17-18; 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 5:4-5; 12:28; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:20; Titus 1:5-9; 3:10;
 - Rev. 1:12-13, 20

Christ our King

- Since the incarnation...
- **4)** He preserves and protects those who belong to Him through temptation and trials.
 - Rom. 8:35-39; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 12:9-10
- **5)** He restrains and eventually defeats both his enemies and the enemies of his people.
 - Acts 12:17; 18:9-10; 1 Cor. 15:25
- **6)** He providentially orders the universe and all of human history for His own glory and for the good of his people.
 - Matt 28:19-20; Rom. 8:28; 14:13; Col. 1:18

Christ our king

- After this age...
- 1) He will eventually take vengeance on those who reject Him and his Gospel.
 - 2 Th. 1:7-10; Rev. 19:11-16

Christ our king

- After this age...
- 2) He will establish His millennial kingdom on a renewed earth and reign with a rod of iron.
 - Matt. 26:64 - Jesus said to him, "You have said it *yourself*, nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."
 - Ps. 2:7-9 - "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession. ⁹'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware."

Christ our king

- After this age...
- 3) After the 1000 years, He will destroy the universe and make a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness is at home and over which he will reign forever.
 - Rev. 20:11 - Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.
 - Rev. 21:1 - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.

Christ our king

- 3) After the 1000 years, He will destroy the universe and make a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness is at home and over which he will reign forever.
 - Is. 9:7 - There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.
 - Dan. 2:44-45; 7:13-14
 - Rev. 11:15 - The seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."
 - 1 Cor. 15:24-28

Christ, Our Prophet, Priest, & King

- Charles Hodge: “We as fallen men, ignorant, guilty, polluted, and helpless, need a Savior who is a prophet to instruct us; a priest to atone and to make intercession for us; and a king to rule over and protect us.”
- James Benjamin Green: "as prophet he meets the problem of man's ignorance, supplying him with knowledge. As priest he meets the problem of man's guilt, supplying him with righteousness. As king he meets the problem of man's weakness and dependence, supplying him with power and protection.”