

The Centrality of Christ

1.1 Corinthians 1.1-18

- Jesus is *central*
- Jesus is *vital*
- Apart from Christ, there is no spiritual life, no Christian faith

2. Acts 2.36

- 'Jesus' His human name = 'God saves'.
- 'Lord' His divine title/attribute = 'Master' 'Ruler'
- 'Christ' = God's 'anointed' (The Chosen One) 'Messiah' in Hebrew (John 1.41)
- 'Both Lord and Christ'-we cannot have one without the other!

3. Acts 4.12

- 'No other name' - Jesus is mankind's only hope, not one of many. Then, now and forever.

4. John 14.6

- 'I am the way, the truth' etc. Not just a teacher, but the 'embodiment' and reality of these things.
- Salvation is found in *a person*, Jesus Christ.
- If Christ is wrong about this, he is wrong about everything.

5. John 1.1-5

- 'In the beginning'- before all things, eternal existence...
- 'The Word' is Jesus. God's perfect expression of Himself.
- 'The Word was God'- Jesus *is* God, but he is *not* the 'Father'. He is the 'Son'.
- (The 'Trinity' is one Godhead: One 'Divine Nature/Essence' in Three 'Persons... Father, Son and Spirit.)

6. John 1.14-18 (Colossians 2.9)

- 'The Word became flesh' (incarnation). What would God be like if he became a human being?
- A Mystery: Jesus Christ is One 'Person' (God the Son) but has Two 'Natures' (Divine and Human)
- 'Full of grace and truth'. Utterly beautiful. 'One and Only'. Utterly unique.

7. John 13.1-5, 12-15

- Jesus is the embodiment of love, compassion and service.
- He is our perfect example-a master who is a servant at heart.

8. Philippians 2. 5-11

- From heaven to earth: An infinite chasm was crossed to save us.
- No comparisons are adequate (e.g. a lion becoming a worm in the dirt etc.)

- 'Made himself nothing' He gave up his 'rights' and *outward* glory but *not* his divine nature. That would be impossible.
- He became a man to live for us and to die for us-the most horrible of deaths!
- 'Every knee shall bow' Say it now or say it later, 'Jesus Christ is Lord.'

9. Hebrews 1.1-3

- 'In the past' 'various ways'-God has *always* communicated to man. (OT)
- 'Last days' -Jesus is the final, ultimate revelation of God.
- 'Radiance'- the richest, fullest expression of 'Majesty'
- 'Heir of all things'= the sole, rightful possessor and ruler of universe!

10. Colossians 1.15-18

- 'Image'-not 'an' image but the Image. Perfect expression.
- 'By him and *for* him'-His power, His possession. Christ is the center of it all.
- Christ is the (One) Head of the (One) Church, His Body. Our divine 'leader'
- Supremacy in *all* things.
- Christ has come to reconcile us to God ('making peace') through his blood.

11. 1 Tim 2.15 (Hebrews 9.15)

- 'One mediator'-he is our *only* 'go between'. Christ is the perfect 'bridge' between man and God
- As a man-he represents *us* perfectly. As God- he represents *the Deity* perfectly. (e.g. like a perfect translator)

12. Philippians 3.7-10

- As Christians, our passion must always be for Christ Himself. For everything about him.

Decision: Do you want to learn more about Jesus and his love? Will you ask him to help you know him better?

Nine more: Isaiah 9.5-7; Mark 2.13-17; Mark 5.35-41; Mark 5.21-43; John 4.3-26; John 5.17-29; John 8.1-11; John 12.1- 11; Revelation 19.11-16