

# Christ Throughout History

Throughout history individuals have developed different ways to explain what they perceived as the two distinct and incompatible identities of Jesus Christ. But their desire to reconcile what they believed to be impossible, led them away from the truth. Join us as we explore some of the historical heresies about Jesus and identify how variations of these beliefs still exist today. Let's explore Scripture to uncover how Jesus Christ—who was, is, and always will be fully God and fully man—came to bring salvation that would reconcile us with God the Father.

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Has anyone ever told you that the Christians invented the idea that Jesus was God as well as man? How did you respond? How would you respond if someone said that to you today?
- How is learning about church history beneficial to us? Do you think it's important to know how the church came to the beliefs it professes today?



**LISTEN TO THE EPISODE:** [Christ Throughout History](#)

**READ** [Colossians 1:15-20](#)

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- What has convinced you that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and our Savior?
- In segment 2, while discussing Jesus Christ's work of reconciliation with hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee, Han-Luen Kantzer Komline says, "what Jesus Christ did in his death and resurrection—so scandalous—dying on a cross—is actually in perfect keeping with the loving way that God has been relating to creation all along." Spend some time identifying other stories in the Bible that demonstrate this loving way God relates to his people. Can you identify experiences from your life? What do these examples teach you about reconciliation? What does it show you about the person of Jesus Christ and the character of God?
- Why do you think we feel the need to explain the mystery of how Jesus can be both the fullness of God and fully, completely human? In what ways is this good? What risks accompany these efforts?

- Arianism, Modalism, Docetism, and Apollinarianism are some of the heretical teachings about Christ we've discussed in this series. Knowing even just a little bit about them can help you recognize their presence in today's culture. Where have you seen or heard variations of these teachings today?
  - Arianism - says Jesus is just a very special human being, God's greatest creation, but therefore created by God and not of the same substance as God.
  - Modalism - says God is one person with three roles. The Trinity is God's 3 roles, like a human might be one person with three roles: a parent, spouse, and employee.
  - Docetism - said Jesus Christ was only God and just looked human, or his humanity was a fake act
  - Apollinarianism: posited Jesus Christ was God in the shell of a human body

## **RELATED PASSAGES** for further study

[John 14:8-11](#), [Acts 17:24-31](#), [Hebrews 1:1-4](#), [John 3:16-18](#), [Philippians 2:1-11](#)

## **CONCLUSION**

Read the [Athanasian Creed](#). Does it bring up any questions for you? Write them down and ask your pastor for clarification. Are there parts that resonate with you? Why? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the church fathers who did this heavy theological lifting that our spiritual lives continue to benefit from. Seek the Holy Spirit's help to make you comfortable with mystery even as you study explanations. May this study bless you by bringing you closer to him and deeper in your faith.

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