

The Offices of Christ
Jesus Christ: God's Champion
A Catalyst Study led by Dr. Jeremy Couture

Introduction

- “Play your position” is one of the things you might hear shouted from the sideline or the coach’s box in multiple sports. For example, a basketball team can use 5 players on the floor at one time. Each player has a role associated with his or her position and if that player “falls flat” the other team may have the advantage.
- For the past 3 weeks of our study, we have been looking at various aspects of Christ’s character. Starting today, and for the next 3 weeks, we will be focusing on Christ’s achievements.
- Tonight, we will be focusing on Christ’s “position,” in God’s kingdom – make that 3 positions or offices that Jesus Christ “played” in the God’s kingdom.
- There were 3 major offices among the people of Israel in the Old Testament.
 - Prophet: the one who spoke God’s word to the people
 - Priest: the one who offered sacrifices, prayers, and praises to God on behalf of the people
 - King: the one who ruled over the people as God’s representative
- These 3 offices foreshadowed the work and ministry of Jesus in each area: revelation, representation, and rule and we’re going to study them together tonight.

Study

- I. Christ as prophet: the one who reveals God to us and speaks His words**
- A. Moses was the first major prophet in the Bible, but he predicted that another major prophet like himself would eventually arrive. (Deut. 18:15-18)
 - B. Public opinion on Jesus was split; some thought that He was one of the prophets, but Peter knew that He was the Messiah. (Matt. 16:13-16)
 - 1. The New Testament clearly identifies Jesus as a prophet, but downplays this office because it would be a significant demotion.
 - a. Jesus is the one whom the prophecies in the Old Testament were all about. (Luke 24:27)
 - b. Jesus was more than a messenger (like the other prophets), He was also the source of revelation from God. (Heb. 1:1-2)
 - 2. He was more than “one of the prophets,” He was “the prophet” of God.

Discussion Question #1

- II. Christ as priest: the one who offers a sacrifice to God on our behalf and is that sacrifice.**
- A. To qualify for the priesthood, a man had to be born into a specific family, be anointed to serve, and to live a blameless life.
 - 1. Jesus was born from a virgin, and from the line of Melchizedek (Matt. 1:18-25, Heb. 6:12)
 - 2. Jesus was anointed at His baptism (Matt. 3:13-17)
 - 3. Jesus wasn’t credibly accused of any sin. (Matt. 27:19-23)
 - B. Jesus functioned as a priest in 3 ways.
 - 1. He offered a perfect sacrifice for sin. (Heb. 9:26)

2. He continually brings us near to God. (Heb. 6:19-20)
3. He continually prays for us. (Heb. 7:25)

Discussion Question #2

III. Christ as king: the one who rules over the church and over the universe.

- A. Jesus was born as King of the Jews. (Matt. 2:2)
- B. After His resurrection, He was given far greater authority:
 1. All authority in heaven and on earth. (Matt. 28:18)
 2. All authority over every name and head over all the Church. (Eph. 1:20)
 3. All authority in the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 15:25)
- C. One day, everyone on earth will acknowledge that He is the “King of kings and the Lord of lords.” (Rev. 19:16)
- D. The reign of Christ as king is progressing as history is progressing.

Discussion Question #3

Implications from the Offices of Christ

- These roles help us understand God’s original design for our lives.
 - Adam and Eve were originally prophets, priests, and kings
 - As prophets, they had true knowledge of God and spoke truthfully about Him.
 - As priests, they spoke to God and fellowshiped with Him freely.
 - As kings, they exercised dominion over creation.
 - Christ’s work allows us to recover (imperfectly) our roles in creation and be reconciled to Him.
- We can and should imitate Christ in each of these 3 roles in the world.
 - We have a “prophetic” role as we proclaim the gospel to world full of people who need to be saved.
 - We are a “royal priesthood” that capable of coming to God and serving in His name.
 - We will share in His “kingly” reign in the future when God brings His kingdom to earth in full.
- Jesus played his position perfectly – all his positions – so that we could share in His victory over sin and death. Now it’s up to us to do our part.

Discussion Questions

1. If Jesus Christ is “the prophet” that reveals God to us, what does that mean for His words that are recorded for us in Scripture? What does that mean for all the Scriptures?
2. One of the main jobs of a priest is to represent people before God. How do Christ’s dual nature as fully God and fully man, help Him to do that better than anyone in history?
3. Christ rules as king in the hearts of those who trust in Him. How can you spot someone who lives under Christ’s authority as king?