

Doctrine that Dances
The Person of Jesus Christ

*Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my father who is in heaven.*

I. Modern Perceptions

- A. Donald Grey Barnhouse
- B. Stephen J. Nichols, *Jesus Made in America*
- C. President Thomas Jefferson
- D. *Talladega Nights*: Ricky Bobby's Jesus

Americans apparently want Christ, but they do not want him straight.
- Robert Detweiler

II. Biblical Revelation

- A. The Deity of Christ
- B. The Humanity of Christ
- C. The Virgin Birth of Christ
- D. The Eternal Reign of Christ

III. Historical Developments

- A. Arius and Athanasius, and the Council of Nicea
- B. The Character and Behavior of Christ vs. The Person and Work of Christ

IV. Modern Implications

- A. Christians must become more objective and less subjective in matters of faith
- B. Christians must be committed to the entirety of Christ – embracing the tension and complexity and refusing to discriminately simplify Christ into a manageable and palatable product
- C. Christians must evangelize with integrity
- D. Churches must be continually assessing their Christ-centeredness