

# Back to the Basics

The Apostles' Creed: 2<sup>nd</sup> Article Part II

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

What does this mean? *I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,*

*Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,*

*that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,*

*just as He is risen from the dead, lives, and reigns to all eternity.*

*This is most certainly true. Amen.*

## The Offices of Christ

Christ has the threefold office of Prophet, Priest, and King. As Prophet, Christ preached on earth, validating His message with miracles: *The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen (Deuteronomy 18:15). He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (Matthew 17:5).* He still proclaims Himself today to be Redeemer through the preached Gospel: *The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me (Luke 10:16).*

As Priest, Christ fulfilled the Law perfectly in our place (active obedience) *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons (Galatians 4:4-5).* He sacrificed Himself for our sins: *Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3).* And He still pleads for us with His heavenly Father (Intercession): *We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1 John 2:1).*

As King, Christ rules over all creation (the kingdom of power—all creatures): *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me (Matthew 28:18).* He governs and protects especially His church (the kingdom of grace—the church on earth): *Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” (John 18:36-37).* Finally, He leads His church to glory in heaven (the kingdom of glory—His church in heaven):

*The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen (2 Timothy 4:18).*

## Humiliation and Exaltation

Philippians 2:5-11 is known as the “Hymn of the Humiliation and Exaltation of Christ” *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

His humiliation is when His power and glory are hidden by His humanity. This began when He “emptied Himself”, or, as the Creed says, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary, His Incarnation. During His life on earth, His power and glory were hidden by His humanity. Then He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. This ended the state of humiliation as He called from the cross, “It is finished” (John 19:30). “It is finished” meant that the work of salvation was complete. The sacrifice was fulfilled. There was nothing left to do.

Some might think that His descent into hell would be part of His humiliation. However, it begins the state of exaltation. He didn’t descend into hell to suffer further punishment (remember: “It is finished”), but to proclaim His victory over His enemies in hell: *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison (1 Peter 3:18).* His state of Exaltation continues with the Resurrection, Ascension to sit at His Father’s right hand, and His Second Coming.

## The Result

The whole upshot of this is Christ is my Redeemer. *He has purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives, and reigns to all eternity.*

Because He is God, His death was the complete sacrifice, paying for my sins. Because He is fully man, He is able to be my Sacrifice, dying in my place. By His death, I am forgiven and by His resurrection, I have new and eternal life in Him. Glory to God!

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*The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The lord make His face shine upon you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.*

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