

Catechism Course 2021
Clondalkin
#6 Who is Jesus Christ?

1. Historical Evidence: The historical evidence for Jesus is better than for most other ancient historical figures.

2. Why did the Son become man?

The catechism lists 4 reasons: - To redeem us from our sins

-So God could show his love for us

-To be a model for us of how to live

-To make us his brothers and sisters, and bring humanity into the life of the Trinity.

3. Three important titles of Jesus used in the New Testament

(A) Jesus is The Christ (Greek) or Messiah (Hebrew), meaning ‘the anointed one.’ A figure whose coming was hoped for by the Jews; he would be priest, prophet and king; and he would usher in the kingdom of God.

(B) Jesus is The only Son of God. It is for this title he was condemned by the religious authorities, for it makes him out to be divine.

(C) Jesus is The Lord. God is named Lord in the Old Testament. It is a divine name.

Jesus reveals his identity both in his words and also in his deeds. The forgiving of sins, in particular, was something that only God could do, and points to his divinity.

4. Jesus: True God and True Man

Jesus is One Person with two natures: a divine nature and a human nature. The natures are unmixed.

Further Resources:

- The *Jesus of Nazareth* series of books by Pope Benedict are excellent both as historical accounts and as spiritual reading.
- For an article explaining further the two natures of Christ : www.wordonfire.org/resources/blog/understanding-christs-humanity-and-divinity/21532/
- For more on historical evidence for Jesus, read Lee Strobel’s *The Case for Christ*
- A cartoon by an Orthodox Christian explaining early heresies:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qxDL3mSKJI>