

Ouachita Baptist University

## Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

---

Vaught Sermon Notes: Hebrews

W.O. Vaught Archive

---

3-2-1980

### Why Christ is in the Highest Position

W. O. Vaught

*Ouachita Baptist University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn\\_hebrews](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_hebrews)



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), and the [Liturgy and Worship Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Vaught, W. O., "Why Christ is in the Highest Position" (1980). *Vaught Sermon Notes: Hebrews*. 117.  
[https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn\\_hebrews/117](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_hebrews/117)

This Sermon Notes is brought to you for free and open access by the W.O. Vaught Archive at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Vaught Sermon Notes: Hebrews by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact [mortensona@obu.edu](mailto:mortensona@obu.edu).

## WHY CHRIST IS IN THE HIGHEST POSITION

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS  
NUMBER 138  
HEBREWS 13:8

Dr. W. O. Vaught  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Prayer: "We are thankful, O God, for the WRITTEN WORD which tells us about the LIVING WORD."

Let us get a corrected translation of verses 6 and 7.

### Verse 6

"So that being confident, with Bible Doctrine resident in the soul, we say, The Lord is my helper and we will not be afraid of what man can do to us."

### Verse 7

"Be concentrating on them (on the pastor-teachers) who are ruling over you, pastors (male type) who have communicated unto all of you the Word of God, pastors whose doctrine be emulating." (This does not mean we are to emulate the person but his doctrine.) This verse ends with the phrase "Carefully considering their grace life-style."

### Verse 8      The Function Of Stability In The Royal Priesthood.

The moment you believe in Christ he gives you thirty-six things. You are in the Royal Family forever and you have all the provision you will need to live in the Devil's world. Christ will provide everything that any believer will ever need. It glorifies God when he can bless us in the Devil's world. Jesus Christ had perfect stability, and when we believe in him and imitate him, we have stability. Everything in life depends on consistency. Consistency brings victory in every realm of life. The world's greatest example of consistency is Jesus Christ. When we are in union with him, then to the extent we obey him, we share this consistency.

### The Meaning Of The Words "Jesus Christ"

When you find "Jesus Christ" in your Bible, the words are so arranged to give emphasis to his humanity. "Jesus" is the name for his humanity, and when it comes before "Christ," the emphasis is on his humanity. The word Kurios, meaning "Lord," emphasizes his deity. The word "Christ" from Christos gives emphasis to his mission and to his future appointment. The word "Messiah" is Hebrew and the word "Christos" is Greek. The word "Jesous" gives emphasis to his humanity. We have omitted here the word "Lord" because when the word "Lord" comes before "Jesus Christ," the emphasis is on his deity. When Christ comes first, the emphasis is on his plan and purpose, the plan and purpose God has for Christ in the earth and in eternity. The word "Jesus" gives emphasis to the hypostatic union. The word "Christ" gives emphasis to his high priesthood.

## THE DOCTRINE OF THE HYPOSTATIC UNION

### 1. DEFINITION

In the person of Jesus Christ are two natures inseparable.

These two natures are inseparably united without mixture or loss of separate identity, without loss or transfer of properties or attributes, the union being personal and eternal. This hypostatic union will exist forever. After the resurrection, ascension and sessions of Jesus Christ, he is the God-Man forever and he will have these two separate identities forever.

2. SCRIPTURE FOUNDATION FOR THE HYPOSTATIC UNION.

The scripture clearly sets forth this great doctrine of the hypostatic union. We find this in such passages as John 1:14, Romans 1:2-5 and 9:5, Phil. 2:5-11, 1 Tim. 3:16 and Heb. 2:14.

3. THE INCARNATE PERSON OF CHRIST INCLUDES HIS DEITY.

Jesus Christ is God and always will be God, and there never was a time when he wasn't God. He is eternal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Christ has every characteristic that God has and that the Holy Spirit has. All ten essence characteristics belong to him. He is perfect righteousness. Christ shares his Eternal Life with us and he also shares with us his righteousness.

4. THE INCARNATE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST IS ALSO TRUE HUMANITY.

Christ was body, soul and spirit. There is one difference in his soul and our soul and that is he doesn't have an old sin nature. Through the Virgin Birth he avoided the imputation of Adam's sin and also remained sinless during his thirty-three years here on the earth. He was born trichotomous, he lived that way and he died that way. This trichotomous condition was emphasized when he died by his body being put in the grave, his spirit went to the Father and in his soul, he went and preached to the spirits in prison.

5. THE TWO NATURES OF CHRIST ARE UNITED WITHOUT TRANSFERRING THE ATTRIBUTES OF ONE TO THE OTHER.

The attributes of Christ adhere to their corresponding natures. One nature never crosses over and becomes involved in the other nature. Attributes of deity adhere to deity and the attributes of humanity adhere to humanity. The essence of his deity cannot be changed. The infinite cannot be transferred into the finite. To rob God of even one item of his essence would destroy his deity. To rob Jesus of one item of his humanity would destroy his humanity. He is true humanity and undiminished deity in one person forever.

6. NO ATTRIBUTE OF HIS DEITY IS CHANGED BY HIS INCARNATION.

His becoming a human didn't change one iota of his deity. In fulfilling the purpose of his first advent, the Lord Jesus Christ retained all the attributes of his deity. This doesn't imply that he used all of these attributes every moment, but they were there. When he was here in his human flesh, he ofte:

voluntarily restricted certain elements of his deity. If the Lord Jesus Christ had used all the elements of his deity all the time, he never would have died on the cross for our sins. Those who tried to seize him would have been killed and no one would have been able to lay one hand on him to move him from one spot to another. During those thirty-three years he was here on the earth, he gave up certain of his attributes in order to fulfill the Father's plan for him to come to the earth and to become our Saviour.

7. THIS UNION OF DIVINE ESSENCE AND THE HUMAN NATURE ARE HYPOSTATIC AND PERSONAL.

Hypostatic comes from a greek word hypostasis and it means standing under. It means taking on an essence that you did not before have. Once he didn't have human essence, and at Bethlehem he took this on. Jesus Christ as God took on the essence of a man. He had always been deity and that will never change. But he became a man in time.

Hebrews 1:3

Hypostatic refers to the whole person of the Lord Jesus Christ as distinguished from his two separate natures. In one person he is God and man without compromising either one by the union of the two. The person, therefore, of Jesus Christ is unique in the entire human race. There has never been and will never be another one like him. As deity he is equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, but he is different from them in that he is also man. As man, he is perfect man, greater than any other human that ever lived, but true humanity.

Hebrews 2:14

"He took part of the same" means he was a true human but did not have an old sin nature. He is totally unique and always will be. There never will be another God-Man in one person and he will be that way forever. The full realization of this doctrine will hit you once you are with Christ forever.

8. THERE IS ALSO A FALSE INTERPRETATION OF THE HYPOSTATIC UNION.

This false idea is that the deity of Christ possessed his humanity or that his deity indwells his humanity. The union is more than harmony or sympathy, it is personal. Two natures combined in one hypostasis, one essence forever. Neither indwells the other. This is a personal and an eternal union.

9. THEREFORE JESUS CHRIST HAS ONE HYPOSTASIS, ONE ESSENCE FOREVER

The attributes of his deity belong to him and the attributes of his humanity belong to him and the attributes of one essence is never attributed to the other.

Both strong and weak at the same time.

During the thirty-three years he was on the earth, he was at the same time omnipotent and weak. He could rise in the boat and calm the angry sea, but he was also tired and fell asleep in the boat.

Both omniscient and ignorant at the same time.

In his omniscience he knew everything, but his humanity limited him and he said only the Father knew of the time of his second coming. (That was spoken from the limit of his humanity.)

Christ was God and could go to the cross and die for the sins of the world but in his physical weakness, he fell under the load of his cross.

He was stronger than anyone that ever lived and holds the world in his hands and yet he became hungry and thirsty. His physical weakness not being able to carry his cross did not in any way affect his omnipotence. He never compromised his deity but in his humanity he was weak. He was weak after he went forty days without food. (Yet in this he shows how strong he was for I seriously doubt if there is a man in the world who could do this today.) Christ could be omnipotent and weak at the same time. He was omniscient and ignorant at the same time. When he was in the cradle, he was the omniscient God, however the baby was ignorant. By the time he had reached twelve years of age, he had reached super grace. But he had to follow a strict path of mental discipline to learn the Word of God, though it was the mind of his deity. (Luke 2 tells of his maturing physically.)

He overcame ignorance just as we do. The ignorance of his humanity he overcame by his constant study and concentration. (Luke 2:40 and John 1:14)

10. THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST.

The necessity for this hypostatic union is found in four categories.

a. THE SAVIOURHOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.

Acts 4:12 says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved." Jesus Christ as eternal God could not die on a cross. As sovereignty he was not subject to death. As Eternal Life he could not die, either physically or spiritually. He is immutable and cannot change. As omnipresent he cannot reduce himself to one point. **THE DEITY OF CHRIST COULD NOT GO TO THE CROSS AND DIE FOR OUR SINS.** However, by becoming true humanity and by remaining perfect humanity he was qualified to go to the cross and take our sins. He bore our sins in his own body on the tree. (Phil. 2:7-8, Hebrews 2:14-15)

b. HIS MEDIATORSHIP.

He had to be both perfect God and perfect man in order to be our mediator. The umpire had to be equal with both parties. He had to be equal with God and equal with man in order to step between and pull us together. The Father or the Holy Spirit could not be the mediator. (Job 9:32-33 and 1 Timothy 2:5-6)

- c. HIS PRIESTHOOD.  
The priest must be a man, representing man before God. Only one man can represent man to God.  
(Hebrews 13:8, Hebrews 7:4-5 also verses 14 and 28, Hebrews 10:5 and 10:10-14)
  - d. THE KING OF ISRAEL FOREVER.  
He had to be a human to be David's greater son and to ever sit on David's throne. He will reign on that throne forever and forever.
11. EVERYTHING JESUS EVER SAID CAME FROM ONE OF THREE SOURCES.
- a. His Deity. An illustration of this is John 8:55.  
"Before Abraham was, I existed eternally." That was his deity speaking.
  - b. His humanity. An illustration of this is John 19:28.  
God can't be thirsty. This had to come from his humanity, not his deity.
  - c. His hypostatic union. Some of the things he said came from both his deity and his humanity. Like Matthew 11:28 and John 14:6.

The word "Christ" refers to his function as the great High Priest. As High Priest he is able to save us and put us into the Royal Family forever.

#### THE DOCTRINE OF HIS HIGH PRIESTHOOD

1. THERE ARE THREE BONA FIDE PRIESTHOODS IN THE BIBLE.
  - a. The family priesthood. In the beginning of the human race, the oldest male was the priest. Abraham, Job, and Melchizedek are illustrations of this.
  - b. The Levitical Priesthood. The family of Aaron and the Tribe of Levi furnished the priests for Israel. This was a specialized priesthood.
  - c. The Church Age Priesthood. In the Church Age every member is his own priest and goes directly to God.  
(1 Peter 2:5 and 9)
2. AS THE HIGH PRIEST, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS MINISTER IN SPIRITUAL THINGS. (Hebrews 5:1)
3. JESUS CHRIST WAS APPOINTED HIGH PRIEST BY GOD THE FATHER.  
(Hebrews 5:4-10 and 6:20)  
Christ got this appointment from God the Father, the great planner of all things.
4. JESUS CHRIST OFFERED HIMSELF AS THE SACRIFICE OF THE PRIESTHOOD. (Hebrews 9:26-27)  
This is the reason for us being here and the reason why we will live forever.

5. CHRIST HAS AN ETERNAL UNTRANSMISSABLE PRIESTHOOD.  
His priesthood cannot be transferred to anyone else  
neither can it be neutralized.  
(Hebrews 7:20, 21, 24)
6. BECAUSE OF POSITIONAL TRUTH EVERY BELIEVER IS A PRIEST.  
This is what we call positional truth, or positional sancti-  
fication. (1 Peter 2:5-9, Rev. 1:6, 5:10, 20:6)
7. AS HIGH PRIEST JESUS CHRIST PERFORMS THE MINISTRY OF IN-  
TERCESSION. (Hebrews 7:25)
8. THE BELIEVER PRIEST HAS A DIFFERENT SACRIFICE THAN THE  
LEVITICAL CODE. Our sacrifice is daily living, study of  
the Word, daily service.

Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same." "The same" comes from ho autos. This is an intensive pronoun and it means to alert us to the fact that a very important person is being mentioned here. Next we have the word echthes and here it is translated "yesterday" and it is referring back to the time when he became flesh at Bethlehem. This takes us right back to his incarnation, the moment when he became the God-Man. The "yesterday" is referring to the first advent.

The word "today" is from simeron and this is a technical word referring to the Church Age. He is at the right hand side of God. This means that Jesus Christ is in his hypostatic union at the throne of God. Next we have the word kai but here it is in its ad-junctive use and should be translated "also." The next word translated "forever" but it is much stronger than that. The greek words are eis tous aionas and it means "unto the ages" or "unto all the eternities."

So this great verse says, "Jesus Christ is the same one, yesterday, today and also unto the ages forever."

#### Summary

1. Jesus Christ remains in hypostatic union as a memorial in commemoration of his strategic victory in the Angelic Conflict.
2. Throughout human history the method of worship changes, but the object of worship never changes. Christ has always been and will always be the object of our worship.
3. In the dispensation of Israel the Jews had shadow forms of worship under the Levitical code. Animal sacrifices, Holy Days, sacred furniture, a Tabernacle and a Temple. Sacred buildings and a special priesthood.

4. The hypostatic union of Christ is a part of the first advent and fulfilled all these shadows. When reality came the form of worship changed but the object of worship didn't change.
5. While the reality of Bible Doctrine is a completed Canon of Scripture and it replaced the shadows, the object of worship has always been the same.
6. Jesus Christ as God is immutable. Therefore, unchangeable.
7. In hypostatic union the God-Man is immutable.
8. Therefore it is impossible for Jesus Christ to ever be unfaithful.
9. Since Jesus Christ is unchangeable, doctrine and truth that comes from Jesus Christ never changes. Therefore, both the Living Word and the Written Word never change.  
Matthew 24:35 compared with Hebrews 13:8.

Jesus Christ is the same forever.