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Week 5 – Jesus Christ

Introduction:

Article 4 – Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus – Israel's promised Messiah – was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

Jesus' Most Critical Question:

"Who do you say that I am?" (Matt. 16:13-16; Mark 8:27-29; Luke 9:18-20)

Life can only be found in the _____ and Creator of it!

- I am the _____ of life (John 6:35)
- I am the _____ and the life (John 11:25)
- I am the way, the _____ and the life (John 14:6)

Jesus our High Priest and Advocate:

- Jesus is our advocate _____ the Father!
- Jesus is our High Priest, Sacrificial _____ and Scapegoat all in One!

So What?

Matthew 7:21-23

We don't join the Kingdom by our impressive religious resume...

John 6:29

Doing the will of God is believing (placing personal trust and confidence in) Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Share about the time, or “a time” when you came face to face with the question “Who do you say that I am?” as it relates to Jesus Christ. How did you address that question personally and what significance has it had in your life?

Ponderings:

2. Why do you think the disciples, along with most First Century Jews, were expecting their Messiah to be a political strong-man?
3. How does the mission of Jesus answer the question of how Messiah can be *both* a suffering servant *and* a reigning King over a kingdom? Discuss...
4. On the political left, many people try to squeeze Jesus into the mold of “social justice warrior.” On the political right, many see Jesus as defender of individual liberties. Is there a modicum of truth in either or both of these ideas? If so, where or how should we be cautious about seeing these through a lens of black-and-white absolutism? Discuss
5. In the weekend message, it was emphasized that Jesus’ primary mission was not to bring political deliverance, but spiritual. Why then, might it be foolish to expect righteousness to exist in the kingdoms of this world apart from spiritual revival in individual human heart? Discuss...

Promptings:

6. No matter your political leanings, why is a laser-focus upon Jesus as Savior from sin the most critical thing you can orient your life around?

Are there any needed “adjustments” you can make...in your attitudes or energies...which might be redirected toward pouring your energies into being an ambassador of the Gospel over all else?

And if so, what difference might that shift make in your daily life?