

Lesson Six
Jesus Christ, True God and True Man
C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, “Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord.”

Councils Clarifying the Incarnation and Christology:

- 1. Council of Nicaea (325).**
 - Called by Pope Sylvester I, 314-335 and Emperor Constantine, 306-337
 - Condemned Arianism and defined the consubstantiality of the Father and the Son
- 2. Constantinople (381)**
 - Called by Pope Damasus I, 366-384 and Emperor Theodosius, 379-395
 - Recondemned Arianism; condemned Macedonianism, which denied the divinity of the Holy Spirit; completed the formulation of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed we profess today
- 3. Ephesus (431)**
 - Pope Celestine I, 422-432 and Emperor Theodosius II, 408-450
 - Condemned Nestorianism, which denied the unity of the divine and human natures in Christ; further defined Mary as the Theotokos; further condemned Pelagianism
- 4. Chalcedon (451)**
 - Pope St. Leo the Great, 440-461 and Emperor Marcian, 450-457
 - Condemned Monophysitism (also called Eutychianism), which denied Christ’s human nature. Also condemned Docetism
 - *Epistola Dogmatica of Pope Saint Leo I* to the Patriarch Flavian of Constantinople from the formulations of St. Cyril of Alexandria: “we teach that one and the same Christ, the Son, the Lord, the Only-Begotten is to be recognized in two natures without confusion or change, without division or separation” (DH 293 and 302).
- 5. Constantinople II (553)**
 - Pope Vigilius, 537-555 and Emperor Justinian I, 527-565
 - Condemned further writings of Nestorianism
- 6. Constantinople III (680)**
 - Pope Agatho, 678-681 and Emperor Constantine IV, 668-685
 - Condemned Monothelitism, which held Christ had only one will, the divine.
- 7. Nicaea II (787)**
 - Pope Hadrian I, 772-795 and Emperor Constantine VI, 780-797
 - Condemned iconoclasm and there Heresy of Adoptionism

Further Reading:

Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth*. Three Volumes throughout his pontificate. *The Infancy Narratives, From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*, and *Holy Week: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*.

CCC §456-511

F. Ocariz, L.F. Mateo Seco & J.A. Riestra, *The Mystery of Jesus Christ: A Christology and Soteriology Textbook* (Four Courts Press), 2011.

Ludwig Ott, *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma* (Baronius Press), 2018.

Thomas Joseph White, O.P., *The Incarnate Lord: A Thomistic Study in Christology* (CUA Press), 2017.