

The Third Genus: Apotelesmaticum

1. **The Idiomaticum Genus** - Christ has two distinct natures, human and divine, each of which has its own essential attributes, functions, and activities. The attributes, functions, and activities of either may be ascribed to the entire Person.
2. **The Maiestaticum Genus** - When the Son of God assumed the human nature, He imparted and communicated to it divine majesty, glory, and attributes. However, the human nature does not impart its attributes to the Divine nature so as to limit or diminish it in any way.
3. **The Apotelesmaticum Genus** - Whatever the Savior did and still does to save sinful mankind (His official acts) may not be ascribed to either of His natures exclusively, but must be ascribed to both natures conjointly.

Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, VIII

46] *Secondly*, as to the execution of the office of Christ, **the person does not act and work in, with, through, or according to only one nature, but in, according to, with, and through both natures**, or, as the Council of Chalcedon expresses it, one nature operates in communion with the other what is a property of each. 47] Therefore **Christ is our Mediator, Redeemer, King, High Priest, Head, Shepherd, etc.**, not according to one nature only, whether it be the divine or the human, but **according to both natures**, as this doctrine has been treated more fully in other places.

Augsburg Confession, Article III: Of the Son of God.

1] Also they teach that *the Word*, that is, *the Son of God*, **did assume the human nature** in 2] the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary, so that there are two natures, the divine and the human, inseparably enjoined in one Person, one Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and 3] buried, **that He might reconcile the Father unto us, and be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of men.**

4] He also descended into hell, and truly rose again the third day; afterward He ascended into heaven that He might sit on the right hand of the Father, and **forever reign and have dominion over all creatures, and sanctify** 5] **them that believe in Him, by sending the Holy Ghost into their hearts, to rule, comfort, and quicken them, and to defend them against the devil and the power of sin.**

6] The same Christ shall openly come again to judge the quick and the dead, etc., according to the Apostles' Creed.

Matthew 18:11, "For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost."

1 John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

1. The Prophetic Office

What is a prophet?

Exodus 7:1, “So the Lord said to Moses: “See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.

2 Corinthians 5:20, “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

The content of this prophesy

Mark 1:14, “...Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God...”

John 3:14-17, “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

John 6:68 But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Christ is a prophet and THE Prophet.

Luke 24:19b, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people....”

Luke 7:16, “Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people.”

Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19, “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.... ¹⁸I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. ¹⁹And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.”

John 6:14, “Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, ‘This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.’”

The One Christ, the God-Man, performed His prophet office directly.

Mark 1:38, “But He said to them, ‘Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.’”

Matthew 17:5b, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”

John 1:17-18 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

John 3:13, 31-34 “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.... ³¹ He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³²And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. ³³He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. ³⁴For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.

John 8:28 Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

Matthew 7:28-29 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, ²⁹for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ²has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Christ performed His prophetic office through holy men of God.

1 Peter 1:10-11, “Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.”

Ephesians 2:20, “...having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets...” (See Eph 4:11-13)

John 15:26, “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”

John 16:7 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Christ still performs His prophetic office through the ministry of the Word

Matthew 28:19-20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Ephesians 4:10-13 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) ¹¹ ‘And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 5:18-20, “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

Luke 10:16, “He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.”

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

2. The Priestly Office

What is a priest?

Malachi 2:7, “For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.” (some overlap with prophetic office)

Hebrews 5:1, “For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.”

Christ is our High Priest

Psalm 110:4, “The Lord has sworn and will not relent, “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

Hebrews 2:17, “...that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

The Work of Our High Priest

1. The Atonement (or Satisfaction), The Ransom/The Price, The Propitiation

1 Peter 1:18-19, “...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

Hebrews 7:27, “...{Christ} who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.”

1 John 2:2, “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” (Also John 1:29, The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!)

A. The Active Obedience of Christ

Matthew 5:48, “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Romans 5:19b, “...so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

B. The Passive Obedience of Christ

Isaiah 53:5-6, “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

1 Peter 2:24, “...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

2. Intercession/Mediation

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots.

Hebrews 5:5-10, “So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.” 6As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”; 7who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey (ὁπακούουσιν) Him, 10called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,”

The priestly office of Christ in the state of exaltation

1. The Atonement is Completed

Romans 6:9-10 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

Hebrews 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 10:10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

2. The Intercession Continues

Hebrews 7:24-27, “But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” 26For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

1 John 2:1-2, “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

Romans 8:34, “Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

2 Corinthians 5:19-20 that is, that God ... has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.

The Redemption won by Our High Priest Is Preached By our High Prophet So that it might be received by Faith.

1 Timothy 2:5-7, “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, 7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

1 Timothy 4:10 For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

John 17:8-9 “For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. 9 “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

Through Faith in Our High Priest’s Sacrifice We Receive

A. Release from SIN

From the Guilt and Punishment of Sin

2 Corinthians 5:21, “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Galatians 3:13, ‘Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”)....”

From the Dominion and Bondage of Sin

Titus 2:14, “...who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

2 Corinthians 5:15, “...and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

Though the external consequences (toilsome labor, tribulation, disease, pain, temporal death, etc.) of sin remain, for Christians these are no longer punishments, but fatherly chastisements intended for our good.

Hebrews 12:6-7, 11, ““For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.’ ⁷If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ...¹¹Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Philippians 1:23, “...For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”

B. Release from DEATH

Spiritual Death

Ephesians 2:1-5, “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.... ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)....”

Subject to Temporal death, we do not fear

Hebrews 2:15, “...and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

1 Corinthians 15:55-57, “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

John 11:25-26, “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’”

Revelation 14:13 “... ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’”

C. Release from the DEVIL

1 John 3:8, “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

1 Peter 5:8-9, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

Revelation 12:10, “Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.”

Romans 8:33, “Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.”

Meaning of Old Testament sacrifices

Leviticus 17:11, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”

Hebrews 10:1-4, “For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. ²For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. ³But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”

Ap XXIV, **53]** And although our belief has its chief testimonies in the Epistle to the Hebrews, nevertheless the adversaries distort against us mutilated passages from this Epistle, as in this very passage, where it is said that every *high priest is ordained to offer sacrifices for sins*. **Scripture itself immediately adds that Christ is High Priest, Heb. 5, 5. 6. 10.** The preceding words speak of the Levitical priesthood, and signify that the Levitical priesthood was an image of the priesthood of Christ. For the Levitical sacrifices for sins did not merit the remission of sins before God; they were only an image of the sacrifice of Christ, which was to be the one propitiatory sacrifice, as we have said above. **54]** Therefore the Epistle is occupied to a great extent with the topic that the ancient priesthood and the ancient sacrifices were instituted not for the purpose of meriting the remission of sins before God or reconciliation, but only to signify the future sacrifice of Christ alone. **55]** For in the Old Testament it was necessary for saints to be

justified by faith derived from the promise of the remission of sins that was to be granted for Christ's sake, just as saints are also justified in the New Testament. From the beginning of the world it was necessary for all saints **to believe that Christ would be the promised offering and satisfaction for sins, as Isaiah 53, 10 teaches: *When Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin.***

56] Since, therefore, in the Old Testament, sacrifices did not merit reconciliation, unless by a figure (for they merited civil reconciliation), but signified the coming sacrifice, it follows that **Christ is the only sacrifice** applied on behalf of the sins of others. Therefore, in the New Testament no sacrifice is left to be **applied for the sins of others, except the one sacrifice of Christ upon the cross.**

Faith in Our High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16Let us therefore come boldly {with confidence} to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

John 14:13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

The Ministry of Reconciliation(Pastoral Office) and the Priesthood of Believers

1 Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

1 Timothy 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

Psalms 116:17, "I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, And will call upon the name of the Lord."

Psalms 141:2, "Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."

Romans 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.