

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 or The Price of our guilt

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,