

Christ's Characteristics

According To Paul

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Colossians 1:13-17</u>	<u>Hebrews 1:1-3, 6</u>
The Way to God	God has "translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love" (NKJB)	God has "spoken unto us by his Son"
Savior	"in whom we have redemption,...the forgiveness of sins"	"who...by himself purged our sins"
Image of God	"who is the image of the invisible God"	"who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person"
Firstborn of God	"the firstborn of every creature"	"appointed heir of all things... the firstborn" (NKJB)
Creator	"for by him were all things created"	"by whom also he made the worlds"
Master	"and by him all things consist"	"upholding all things by the word of his power"

(Adapted from Francis W. Beare, "Colossians," The Interpreter's Bible, New York: Abingdon Press, 1955, 11:162)

Christ Became Like His Father

Bruce L. Andreason¹²

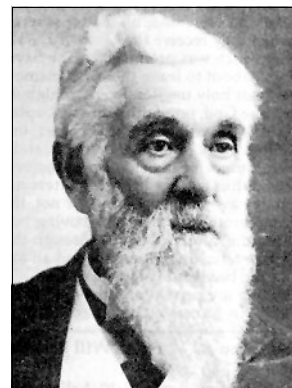
John 4:34; 5:19; Philippians 1:13; 2:5–9; 4:13; Mosiah 3:19

Philippians 2:6 — He “thought it not robbery to be equal with God”

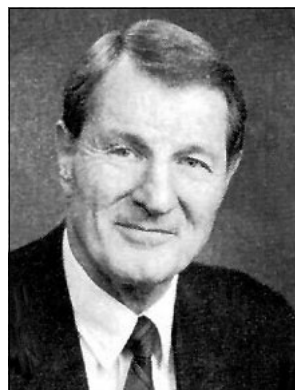
It was Lorenzo Snow who summarized this doctrine in poetic form:

“As man now is, God once was: as God now is man may be. A son of God, like God to be, would not be robbing deity. He who has this hope within will purify his heart from sin.”

—*Improvement Era*, 22:651



Philippians 2:7 — He “made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant”



Neal A. Maxwell gave this insight regarding the ironic condition on which the Lord entered mortality:

“In heaven, Christ’s lofty name was determined to be the only name on earth offering salvation to all mankind (Acts 4:12; 2 Nephi 25:20; see also Abraham 3:27), yet the King of kings, the Mortal Messiah, willingly lived modestly, wrote Paul, even as a person ‘of no reputation’ (Philippians 2:7).

“What a contrast to our maneuvering over relative recognition and comparative status! How different, too, from the ways in which some among us mistakenly see the size and response of their audiences as the sole verification of their worth! Yet those fickle galleries to which we sometimes play have a way of being rotated and emptied. They will surely be empty on Judgment Day; everyone will be somewhere else—on their knees.”

—*Men and Women of Christ*, 64

Philippians 2:8 — He “humbled himself, and became obedient to death”

Christ, the perfect child, came into the world and submitted His will to that of His Father in Heaven (John 4:34; 5:19) even unto death. We too can “*putteth off* the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon [us], even as a child doth submit to his father” (Mosiah 3:19).

¹² This article is one in a series of weekly columns distributed by LDSWorld-Gems, corresponding with the Gospel Doctrine lessons on the New Testament. “I Can Do All Things through Christ” Gospel Doctrine Lesson 40: Philippians; Colossians; Philemon. Bruce L. Andreason is Associate Editor of *The New Testament for Latter-day Saint Families*. Copyright 1999, LDSWorld-Gems.

“Quickened” by Jesus Christ

Colossians 2:13

To be “quickened” means to be made alive. One who has been spiritually dead because of sin can be made spiritually alive through submission to the first principles and ordinances of the gospel. He is raised to a newness of life in Jesus Christ through forgiveness of past sins.

Spencer W. Kimball said:

“Our loving Father has given us the blessed principle of repentance as the gateway to forgiveness. All sins but those excepted by the Lord—basically, the sin against the Holy Ghost, and murder—will be forgiven to those who totally, consistently, and continuously repent in a genuine and comprehensive transformation of life. There is forgiveness for even the sinner who commits serious transgressions, for the Church will forgive and the Lord will forgive such things when repentance has reached fruition.”

—*Miracle of Forgiveness*, 14

