

## "THE OFFICES OF THE SON OF GOD"

(Adapted from: *50 Core Truths of the Christian Faith*)

(Gregg Allison)

### Understanding the Doctrine.

Most commonly, people view the saving work of Jesus Christ in terms of his sacrifice on the cross and his resurrection. While these were certainly the focus of his mission, Christ's work cannot be limited to them. The *munus triplex*, or threefold office of Christ, underscores the multifaceted nature of his work of salvation.

God established three offices in Israel: prophet, priest, and king. These were distinct offices held by different people and featured different roles. By speaking God's words through the Holy Spirit, the prophets gave divine revelation, making known God and his ways to his people. As mediators between God and his people, the priests offered sacrifices to atone for the people's sins and interceded for them before God. As God's representatives, the kings ruled over the people of God.

The three distinct roles of prophet, priest, and king were carried out by three distinct types of people. Importantly, the Old Testament prophesied the coming of One who would join the three offices together. He would be Prophet, Priest, and King, engaging in the work of all three offices.

The Son of God fulfilled this prophecy. Uniting the three offices together and doing the work of all three, Jesus is Prophet, Priest, and King.

### Enacting the Doctrine.

This doctrine highlights important aspects of the person and work of the Son of God. Scripture, which is our ultimate authority, points us to him, the ultimate Word by whom the Father spoke (Heb. 1:1-2). The Son reveals the words, the works, and the very being of God. We rejoice in knowing him, and we make it our daily work to give heed to the One who is Prophet.

The Son eternally intercedes for us. He prays that our faith remains strong (Luke 22:31-32). He prays against the attacks and accusations of the evil one (Rev. 12:10). His constant praying means that our salvation is sure (Heb. 7:25). We are thankful for his ministry of prayer, and we draw near with confidence to the One who is priest.

The Son is King, ruler over all creation and head of the church. We long for the entire world to submit to Him, praying, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10). Until his kingdom comes, we as the church joyfully obey the One who is King.

A common way of presenting this doctrine is to encourage Christians to imitate Christ in his three offices. How can believers be prophets, priests, and kings today? Or, thinking more individually, am I more prophetic, priestly, or kingly in terms of my gifts, passions, and abilities? Generally speaking, a "prophetic" person is concerned about communicating the gospel and leading through casting vision. A "priestly" person focuses on caring for in counseling people and engaging in ministries of mercy. The "kingly" person gives attention to concrete tasks and leading through strategizing and implementing vision.

