

THE PERSON OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. AQUINAS

by MAURO GAGLIARDI · Language: EN

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Overview

Mauro Gagliardi's "THE PERSON OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. AQUINAS" offers a comprehensive and systematic analysis of St. Thomas Aquinas's Christology. The book meticulously unpacks Aquinas's profound theological insights into the person of Jesus Christ, focusing primarily on the mystery of the Incarnation and the hypostatic union. Gagliardi guides the reader through Aquinas's intricate arguments concerning how the divine and human natures coexist perfectly in the one divine person of the Son, addressing the philosophical and theological challenges inherent in this central Christian doctrine. It explores Aquinas's engagement with patristic tradition, conciliar definitions, and various Christological heresies, demonstrating the enduring relevance and coherence of Thomistic thought.

The work is significant for its clear exposition of complex theological concepts, making Aquinas's Christology accessible while maintaining academic rigor. Gagliardi highlights Aquinas's methodical approach, which integrates philosophical reasoning with scriptural exegesis and dogmatic tradition to construct a robust understanding of Christ's identity and mission. The book serves as an invaluable resource for theologians, philosophers, and students seeking a deeper appreciation of classical Christology, offering a foundation for contemporary discussions on the nature of Christ and the implications of the Incarnation for Christian faith and life.

Key Takeaways

- Aquinas's Christology fundamentally posits the unity of Christ's person despite having two distinct natures, divine and human.
- The hypostatic union is the central concept explaining how divinity and humanity are perfectly united in the single divine person of Jesus Christ.
- St. Thomas Aquinas systematically addresses and refutes various Christological heresies by clarifying precise theological and philosophical terms.
- Gagliardi demonstrates the rigorous philosophical methodology Aquinas employed to analyze and articulate profound theological mysteries.
- Understanding Aquinas's Christology provides a crucial historical and doctrinal foundation for contemporary theological discourse.

- The book illuminates how Aquinas integrated scriptural revelation, patristic thought, and philosophical reason to construct his Christological synthesis.
- Christ's human knowledge and will, though distinct, are always perfectly subordinated to and informed by his divine personhood.

Chapter Summaries

Introduction to Thomistic Christology

This chapter introduces the foundational principles of St. Thomas Aquinas's Christology, setting the stage for understanding his systematic approach. It outlines the historical and theological context in which Aquinas developed his thought, emphasizing his reliance on Scripture, the Church Fathers, and previous ecumenical councils. Gagliardi highlights Aquinas's unique contribution to the understanding of the Incarnation and the person of Christ, stressing the importance of philosophical tools in theological inquiry.

The Mystery of the Incarnation and the Hypostatic Union

Gagliardi delves into the core of Aquinas's Christology: the Incarnation and the hypostatic union. This section meticulously explains how the Son of God assumed a complete human nature without ceasing to be God, forming one divine person. It explores the concept of 'person' and 'nature' as understood by Aquinas, clarifying how the two natures (divine and human) are united in Christ without confusion, change, division, or separation, yet remain distinct.

The Divine Person and Two Natures of Christ

This chapter elaborates on the distinction and relationship between Christ's divine personhood and his two natures. Gagliardi explains Aquinas's arguments against various heresies that either separated the natures or confused them, demonstrating how Aquinas maintained the integrity of both Christ's divinity and humanity. It examines the implications of Christ being a divine person for understanding his actions, attributes, and identity.

Christ's Human Knowledge and Will

Gagliardi explores Aquinas's nuanced treatment of Christ's human knowledge and will. The chapter discusses how Christ, as a divine person, possessed perfect human knowledge, including infused knowledge and beatific vision, alongside his experimental knowledge. It also examines the relationship between Christ's human will and his divine will, emphasizing the perfect harmony and subordination of the human will to the divine, without compromising human freedom.

Christ's Grace, Virtues, and Perfection

This section focuses on the perfections of Christ's human nature, including his grace and virtues. Gagliardi explains Aquinas's view that Christ possessed the fullness of grace from the moment of

his conception, as well as all human virtues in their most perfect form. It clarifies how these perfections were fitting for the divine person who assumed human nature, demonstrating the complete sanctity and moral excellence of Christ.

The Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

Gagliardi examines Aquinas's theological understanding of Christ's saving work, particularly his Passion, death, and Resurrection. The chapter explains how these events are understood as acts of the divine person, through his human nature, and their efficacy for human salvation. It delves into the concepts of satisfaction, redemption, and merit, highlighting the sacrificial and redemptive nature of Christ's suffering and his triumph over sin and death.

Aquinas's Method and Legacy in Christology

The concluding chapter reflects on Aquinas's overall Christological method and its enduring legacy. Gagliardi summarizes the key contributions of Thomistic Christology and its influence on subsequent theological development. It discusses how Aquinas's systematic rigor and clarity continue to provide a robust framework for understanding the person of Christ, offering insights relevant for contemporary theological challenges and discussions.

Themes

- Hypostatic Union
- Divine Personhood
- Christological Doctrine
- Thomistic Theology
- Incarnation Mystery
- Systematic Theology

Frequently Asked Questions

What is THE PERSON OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. AQUINAS about?

Mauro Gagliardi's book provides an in-depth exploration of St. Thomas Aquinas's Christology. It systematically analyzes Aquinas's teachings on the person of Jesus Christ, focusing on the hypostatic union, the coexistence of divine and human natures in one divine person, and the implications for understanding Christ's knowledge, will, and saving work. It's a scholarly examination of a central Christian doctrine.

Is THE PERSON OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. AQUINAS worth reading?

Yes, for anyone interested in Catholic theology, Christology, or the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, this book is highly recommended. Gagliardi offers a clear, rigorous, and comprehensive

exposition of complex theological concepts, making Aquinas's profound insights accessible while maintaining scholarly depth. It's an essential resource for students, theologians, and educated lay readers.

Who should read THE PERSON OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. AQUINAS?

This book is ideal for students of theology, seminarians, priests, and scholars specializing in Christology or Thomistic studies. Educated lay readers with a strong interest in systematic theology and the historical development of Christian doctrine will also find it highly rewarding. It requires a foundational understanding of theological concepts.

How long does it take to read THE PERSON OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. AQUINAS?

Based on its length of 288 pages and an average reading speed of 250 words per minute for academic texts, it would take approximately 345 minutes, or about 5 hours and 45 minutes, to read the entire book.