

## V. The Work of Christ

The work of Christ includes three major areas of emphasis: the States of Christ, the Offices of Christ, and the Atonement of Christ. These areas will be taken up in order.

### A. The States of Christ

#### 1. Statement of the Doctrine

##### a. In the *Westminster Larger Catechism*

"Q. 42. Why was our Mediator called Christ?

"A. Our Mediator was called Christ, because he was anointed with the Holy Ghost above measure; and so set apart, and fully furnished with all authority and ability, to execute the offices of prophet, priest, and king of his Church, in the estate both of his humiliation and exaltation."

##### b. By John William Baier

"The State of Humiliation consists in this, that Christ for a time renounced (truly and really, yet freely), the plenary exercise of the divine majesty, which His human nature had acquired in the personal union, and, as a lowly man, endured what was far beneath the divine majesty (that He might suffer and die for the life of the world).

"The State of Exaltation is the state of Christ, the God-man, in which He, according to His human nature, having laid aside the infirmities of the flesh, received and assumed the plenary exercise of the divine majesty."

-- *Compendium Theologiae Positivae* (Berlin: Schlawitz, 1864, reprint of 1685 edition), p. 482.

##### c. By Heinrich Schmid

"As the work of redemption, for whose accomplishment the  $\lambda\acute{o}\gamma\omicron\varsigma$  became man, could be brought about only through suffering and death, it is altogether natural that we should see Christ, through all His earthly life, even until the completion of His work of redemption, going about in the form of a servant, subject to all the weaknesses and infirmities of human nature. Not until after His resurrection did He lay aside the form of a servant and appear in divine glory. Accordingly, from the time of the incarnation of Christ, we have to predicate of Him a two-fold condition, that of the form of a servant and that of glory. . . Accordingly we designate the former condition the State of Humiliation a condition of self-renunciation; the other, the State of Exaltation. This self-renunciation, however, that is followed by His being in the condition of a servant, does not lie in the act of incarnation; for, although it is a gracious condescension of the  $\lambda\acute{o}\gamma\omicron\varsigma$ , that He assumed human nature, yet that cannot be the fact here referred to, as the condition of self-renunciation is designated as temporary, while the incarnation is permanent."

Schmid goes on to list eight stages in the State of Humiliation, and four in the State of Exaltation, as those stages are listed in the *Examen Theologicum Acroamaticum* of David Hollaz (A.D. 1707). They are as follows: