

B. The Offices of Christ

1. Statement of the Doctrine

a. By Eusebius of Caesarea (A.D. 260-340)

"Nor was the name of Christ among the Hebrews, given solely as an honour to those who were dignified with the priesthood, in consequence of their being anointed with oil prepared for the purpose, as a sacred symbol; the same was done also to the kings, whom the prophets, after anointing them under a divine impulse, constituted certain typical Christs, as they themselves also were, the shadows of the royal and princely sovereignty of the only and true Christ, of that divine word which holds sovereignty over all. Moreover, we are also told respecting the prophets, that some were typical Christs, by reason of their unction; so that all these have a reference to the true Christ, the divine and heavenly word, the only high priest of all men, the only king of all creation, and the Father's only supreme Prophet of the prophets Even to this day, he is honored by his votaries throughout the world, as a king; he is admired as more than a prophet, and glorified as the only true high priest of God"

-- *Ecclesiastical History*. Book I, Chapter III.

b. By John Calvin

". . . Therefore, that faith may find in Christ a solid ground of salvation, and so rest in him, we must set out with this principle, that the office which he received from the Father consists of three parts. For he was appointed both Prophet, King, and Priest;

"Moreover, it is to be observed, that the name Christ refers to those three offices: for we know that under the Law, prophets as well as priests and kings were anointed with holy oil. Whence, also, the celebrated name of Messiah was given to the promised Mediator. But although I admit (as, indeed, I have elsewhere shown) that he was so called from a view to the nature of a kingly office, still the prophetic and sacerdotal unctions have their proper place, and must not be overlooked."

-- *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Two, XV: 1, 2.

c. In the *Heidelberg Catechism* Question 31 (A.D. 1563)

"Why is he called Christ that is, Anointed

"Because he is ordained of God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Ghost, to be our Chief Prophet and Teacher, who fully reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption; and our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of his body has redeemed us, and ever liveth to make intercession for us with the Father; and our eternal King, who governs us by His Word and Spirit, and defends and preserves us in the redemption obtained for us."