

Christology - Latin writers

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- Rufinus of Aquileia - c 345 - 410 - Altaner 459-462- Gr 317 f.  
translated and defended Origen - Word man framework
- Marius Victorinus Afer - d. after 362 - Altaner 430-432 - Gr 919-21  
Word man framework - Neoplatonist thinker
- Augustine - 354-430 - Altaner 487-534 - Gr 321-328
- 321 before baptism conceived Xt as a man, completely human,  
partaking wisdom to the full
- 322 between 394-397 sharp distinction drawn between the unity  
of God and man in Xt and the gift of grace to other men  
susceptus quippe a Verbo totus homo, id est, anima  
rationalis et corpus  
persona conceived as Antiochenes conceive prosopon  
to this Gr attributes difficulties Augustine experienced  
in maintaining the transcendence of the Logos
- 323 (¶Jesus Christus homo) ita susceptus secundum catholicam fidem  
ut ipse esset Filius Dei, id est, in illo ipso Dei sapientia  
sanandis peccatoribus appareret.
- 325 .. persona hominis est mixtura animae et corporis, persona  
autem Christi mixtura est Dei et hominis

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John Chrysostom - 344/54- 407 - Alt ~~333~~ 373-387

Born in Antioch - hermit - deacon 381 - priest 386 - bp Constan 397

335 Chief christological concern: transcendence and immutability  
of the divine essence

The soul of Christ is a physical reality but not a  
theological factor.

The divinity is in the humanity as in a holy temple

Nowhere an explicit recognition of Xt's distinct human knowledge

337 Whenever Xt acted as a man, it was either to prove the  
reality of the economy or out of condescension

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Theodore of Mopsuestia d 428 Altaner 370-373

Along with Chrysostom a pupil of the Rhetor Libanius and of

Diodore of Tarsus - became bp of Mopsuestia in 392

Logos-man framework - condemned Constant II, AD 553 DS434 DB#224

338-342 Gr expounds Theodore's general teaching - sound

¶ 342 He experiences the theology and presence of Xt as a liturgist,  
his speculative theology is subsidiary and not an aim in itself,  
his philosophy stands still further in the background

As with the Cappadocians we find in his writings the analysis  
of the ens physicum concretum with the concepts hypostasis & prosopon

- 343 We must ask, How does the christological problem present itself to him, and what means of solving it are at his disposal  
Recall Fuller: tools of early community, Gk speaking Jews, etc
- 345 Argues against Apollinarians: if the Transcendent Logos were the life principle in X't's flesh, then the body could have lacked nothing - for all weaknesses are the result of a weak life-principle:

Both body and soul had to be assumed if body and soul were to be redeemed. X't assumed first a soul and then a body. It was only possible to save the body through the spiritual soul. Christ assumed a soul and by the grace of God brought it to the immutability needed to free it of sin. He also assumed a separate human understanding, for without this the soul would not have been human.

- 346 Argues from agony in the garden, from Heb 5 7-9, to reality of human soul

Both Apollinarians and Theodore see redemption achieved in the complete moral integrity of the spiritual principle in Christ, in its immutability as they conceive it (Hellenistically). But for Apollinarians the immutability is that of the Logos, for Theodore it is achieved through grace in a man.

- 348 Too often Theodore gives the impression that the Word assumed an already self-sufficient man

"The only son of God, God the Word, really wished, alone for our salvation, to assume one from among us, to raise him from the dead, to have him ascend into heaven, and to establish him at the right hand of the Father."

- 349 He uses the language of indwelling, which however is scriptural, and he shows that he does not consider it the whole story

Jn 6 62: "if ye should see the Son of man ascending where he was before" Theodore notices that this implies preexistence

Otherwise it would have been: "if ye should see the Son of Man ascending where he who is in him was before..."

- 351 Prosopon used in the Antiochene sense: countenance

"For when we distinguish the natures, we say that the nature of God the Word is complete, and that his prosopon is complete (for it is not correct to speak of a hypostasis without its prosopon); and we say also that the nature of the man is complete and likewise his prosopon. But when we look

to the conjunction, then we say one prosopon."

352 This one prosopon is the fact that the man shares in all the dignity of the Word indwelling in him, in all his power, in the exercise of universal judgement

"Prosopon is used in a twofold way: for either it signifies the hypostasis and that which each one of us is; or it is conferred upon honour dignity and worship; for example Peter and Paul signify the hypostasis and the prosopon of each one of them, but the prosopon of our Lord Christ means honor greatness and worship. For because God the Word was revealed in manhood, he was causing the glory of his hypostasis to cleave to the visible one; and for this reason 'prosopon of Christ' declares it (the prosopon) to be (a prosopon) of honor, not the ousia of the two natures."

354 This is not the later unio in hypostasi et secundum hypostasin For this is not the later meaning of hypostasis

It anticipates the later meaning only verbally, since the prosopon in an archaic sense is the principle of union.

359 "If then we try to distinguish the natures we say that the man is perfect in his hypostasis that the God is perfect in his. But if we want to consider the union, we say that both the natures are a single person (and hypostasis) and acknowledge that because of its union with the God head the flesh receives honor beyond all creatures and the Godhead fulfils everything in him."

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Nestorius b after 381 d. at the earliest 451 Altaner 393-395  
Born of Persian parents, was a priest monk at Antioch, probably a pupil of Theodore of Mopsuestia. Because of his great fame as a preacher, Theodosius II made him bp of Constantinople in 428

373 On his arrival in Constantin he found some saying mary was Mother of God and others saying she was only mother of a man

He investigated the matter and decided that she should be said to be Mother of Christ, that is, mother of God and of man, for Christ is God and man

374 Nestorius directs his remarks principally against Arians and Apollinarians. Among the latter he includes Cyril of Alexandria. He rightly remarks that their denial of a human soul to Christ gives a special and mistaken meaning to the title, theotokos. The Word is the life-giving part of the compound born of Mary on Apollinarian christology.

Cyril's formula "one nature of God the Word made flesh" was taken from the Apollinarian pseudepigrapha. Cyril clung to it despite the fact that eventually he fully recognized a human soul giving life to the <sup>humana</sup> body of Christ. Grillmeier 400-6

Nestorius further attacks the traditional communicatio idiomatum and the expression Deus passus.

376 "You start your account with the creator of the natures and not with the prosopon of the union. It is not the Logos that has become twofold; it is the one Lord Jesus Christ who is twofold in his natures. In him are seen all the characteristics of the God-Logos, who has a nature eternal and unable to suffer, and also all those of the manhood, that is a nature mortal, created, and able to suffer, and lastly those of the union and incarnation."

377 "Notice how by putting 'Christ', the indication of the two natures, (the Fathers) did not first of all say, 'We believe in the one God-Logos,' but chose a name which describes the two."

"If you will, take a closer look at the statements (of the Nicene Creed), and you will find that the choir of the Fathers did not say that the consubstantial Godhead is capable of suffering, nor (did they say) that the nature coeternal with the Father was new-born, nor that the Godhead was raised which itself raised the destroyed temple... See how they put first 'Lord' and 'Jesus' and 'Christ' and "only begotten" and 'Son.' the names common to the Godhead and the manhood as a foundation, and thus they build on it the tradition of the Incarnation and Passion and Redemption."

379 "Even before the Incarnation the God-Logos was Son and God and together with the Father, but in the last times he took the form of a servant; but as already previously he was Son both in name and in nature, he cannot be called a separate Son after taking this form, otherwise we would be decreeing two Sons."

The foregoing is Nestorius at his best, but "Nestorius is never completely clear about the ontological primacy of the hypostasis or person of the Logos. But he is seriously concerned to maintain the traditional unity of Christ. For this reason he opposes the expression, anthropotokos, from the moment he takes office as bishop."

380 Nestorius repeatedly affirms that one and the same is seen in the uncreated and in the created nature.

But this one in the same results from the union. "But in same way as the perishable body is one thing and the immortal soul is another, yet both go to make up one man, so too (one is made up) from the mortal and the immortal, from the perishable and the imperishable, from that which is subject to a beginning and from the nature which has no beginning. This means that I confess God the Logos one prosopon of the Son."

384 By building the unity of Christ completely on the idea of prosopon, Nestorius transcends all attempts to envisage the unity as a unio in natura et secundum naturam. This was the way of the Arians and the Apollinarians; but even some speculative attempts by orthodox Fathers came near to this natural unity.

Nestorius is fond of referring to Philippians 2, 5-8. Form of God and form of a servant suggest what he means by prosopon: the mode of appearance of a concrete nature. Thus he makes Christ .. (not the Logos) say:

"Being in the form of God I am clothed in the form of a servant; although I am God the Logos, I am visible in the flesh; although I have rule over all things, I take upon myself the prosopon of the poor for your sake; although I am visibly hungry, I give food to those that hunger."

442 Later in the Liber Heraclidis Nestorius will explain that the one prosopon is achieved in a twofold way; through the compensation of the prosopa and through the mutual interpenetration or perichoresis of these prosopa. Kenosis and exaltation.

385 "The divine Logos was not one (allos) and another (kai allos) ... Rather one was the prosopon of both in dignity and honor, worshipped by all creation, and in no way and no time divided by otherness of purpose and will"

"The two natures have one Lordshp (authentia) and one power (dunamis) or might (dunasteia) and one prosopon in the one dignity (axia) and in the same honor (time)."

388 In the time of Nestorius, it is everywhere apparent that no adequate metaphysics of the substantial union of spiritual beings had yet been evolved. More than all others, however, Nestorius saw the problem of finding such a substantial union which would leave intact the physis qua physis. This clear insight into the problem, together with his inadequate solution explains his inability to justify his own positions and to think himself (his way) into (the positions of) others. All the traditional difficulties come to a head in his writings. We understand how he could be condemned if the consequences of his false premises were drawn. But we can recognize just as clearly that he need not have been condemned had attention been paid to his care for traditions and to the new problem which he posed, despite his speculative impotence (Prestige).

#### The Case of Leporius

390 Leporius, a monk in Gaul, had difficulties with the transfer of attributes (comm idiomatum). God is not a man; a man is not God. He was excommunicated by the Bishop of Marseilles, and fled to Africa, where Augustine resolved his difficulties and composed a Libellus emendationis which Leporius had to read in the presence at Carthage.

391 "It was not God the Father that was made man, nor was it the Holy Spirit, but the only begotten of the Father. So there is to be acknowledged one person of the flesh and of the Word so that faithfully and without hesitation we believe that one and the same God the Son.. in the days of the his flesh ever to have performed all that pertain to men, and truly ever possessed and that pertains to God....

The union is in the one divine person not in the divine nature and not through the union of the natures.

Altaner 328-334. ob. 444. bp Alex 412-444.

400 Cyril represents the Logos sarx Christology of Athanasius and the younger Didymus. In 429-30 he devotes himself to deeper theological study so as to be able to enter the field against Nestorius. Certain circles seem to have used this moment to send the Patriarch of Alexandria a number of works that bore the names of Roman Popes Julius and Felix and of Gregory the Wonder-worker, Athanasius, and Hippolytus (DVI 108)

In consequence he accepted as authoritative the *mia phusis* and the *mia upostasis formulae* of Apollinaris.

402 In his second letter to Succensus he had to meet four arguments against his *mia phusis*. The fourth was to the effect that it cannot be claimed that X<sup>t</sup> suffered only after the flesh, and this Cyril grants for it would imply that the suffering was involuntary and non-rational. Succensus further point that if Christ had a body and a soul, then he had a human nature as well as a divine nature, and therefore two natures. Cyril grants that Christ's human nature is an *autokineton*, a self moving principle, a *phusis*.

Succensus then set the dilemma: either two natures or no human psychology.

403 To this must be added the first objection which ran: if there is no human soul, then the suffering must be ascribed to the divine nature.

Cyril fully grants the reality of Christ's human soul, but he still clings to his *mia phusis* and *mia hypostasis*. He understood these terms to refer to a concrete reality. He considered the Apollinarian writings to represent Church tradition. He granted two natures before the union. He granted distinction after the union. He denied separation after the union

Alexandrian *logos sarx* has come to its end. Suffering is placed in the soul as well as the flesh. All the significance of the human obedience and sacrificial action of X<sup>t</sup> comes into the open.

logos-sarx

404 Under ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ influence Cyril still retains the doctrines of zoopoiesis and organon. The natural life of the body is now derived from the human soul and not from the logos qua logos. But the divine energeia of the Logos flows directly into the body and makes it life-giving.

405 Cyril's insistence on unity means that all thought of Christ also is thought of the Logos. "God the Logos did not come into a man, but he became man, while remaining God"

408 Cyril distinguishes between Nestorius and Orientals. The former divides God and man; the latter distinguish between the two.

411 Mia phusis tou theou logou sesarkomene

The one nature or hypostasis is the nature and hypostasis of the logos. It is this that becomes incarnate.

412 M. Richard's Summary

The upostaseis or phuseis of Christ may not be divided after the union

The idiomata may not be divided between two persons or two hypostaseis (or two independent phuseis) but they must all refer to the single person, ~~to~~ to the mia phusis (hypostasis) tou theou logou sesarkomene

The Logos is united kath upostasin to the flesh which he has taken. (i.e. the logos himself is understood to be and in reality is a single Christ, the same God and man.

DVI 138

When Cyril attempts to answer objections against his mia phusis, he has no distinction intermediate between the distinction between Peter and Paul and a distinction that occurs only in the mind, only in contemplation.

However he illustrates this latter distinction by the distinction between body and soul; the nature of the one differs from the nature of the other; but when conjoined there results only one human nature.

So he admits Christ be ex duabus naturis but after the incarnation he will have only one nature.

Cyril's sola contemplatione corresponds, not to the scholastic distinctio rationis, but to their distinctio realism minor.



Diodore } denies natural union of Ap.  
 Theodore } anti Apollinarist  
 Nestorius } affirm soul

- ① danger of adoptionism
- ② not natural union
- ③ union in  $\tau\epsilon\pi\omicron\sigma\theta\epsilon\tau\omicron\upsilon$  : countenance  
 $\iota\delta\iota\omicron\upsilon$

Cyprian

de iis quibus

admitted 2 natures : said before the  
 union