

**Introduction**

1. Christ and his people are one
2. Termed: "Union". **Illustration**: a temple
3. Our attitude to Christ is shown by our attitude to His people  
**OBSERVE**: Two exactly opposite views of Christ here

**1. THE WORLDLY PERSON'S VIEW OF CHRIST**

- 1) The picture:
  - (i) builders
  - (ii) stone
  - (iii) temple
- 2) Why they rejected + still reject Christ:
  - (i) Christ's humble family: Joseph + Mary
  - (ii) Christ's humble birth: a stable
  - (iii) Christ's lowly nature: so meek, gentle
  - (iv) Christ's amazing claim: to be God
  - (v) Christ's accursed death: on the cross
  - (vi) Christ's resurrection: "incredible"
- 3) For these reasons, the world rejects our Lord:
  - (i) they "stumble". **Illustration**
  - (ii) they are "confounded" (v.6)
  - (iii) they "disallow" him (v.7)

**ILLUSTRATION**: World leaders looking for the perfect religion / philosophy: "Not Christ"

**APPLICATION**: This is why they despise Christ's people and pity us: "Poor souls".

**2. THE BELIEVER'S VIEW OF CHRIST: "PRECIOUS"**

- 1) By faith we see why Christ was so "weak"
  - (i) the Virgin Birth essential
  - (ii) the high claims are justified (miracle)

- (iii) the afflictions of Christ necessary
- (iv) the Cross a place of glory, not shame
- (v) the Resurrection full of comfort

- 2) The Resurrection is the way to begin:
  - (i) Objection 1: "stolen by disciples"
  - (ii) Objection 2: "stolen by Pharisees..."
  - (iii) Objection 3: "he never died"
  - (iv) Objection 4: "hallucination"

**ILLUSTRATION**: "Who Moved the Stone?" (Morison)

- 3) He is "precious" to us:
  - (i) His 2 natures
  - (ii) His 3 offices
  - (iii) His 2 states
  - (iv) His 2 comings
  - (v) our union with Him even now:

**ILLUSTRATION**: v.4-5

**APPLICATION**: Is Christ precious to you?

**3. WHATEVER MEN THINK, HE IS "LORD"**

- 1) "The head of the corner", i.e. the most important stone in the whole building
- 2) What does this mean?
  - (i) He is the only way to God: John 14:6...
  - (ii) He is the only Saviour
  - (iii) He is the only Head of the Church
  - (iv) He is the only Judge: Matthew 25
- 3) All this is true whatever people think:  
**ILLUSTRATION**: The Emperor Julian
- 4) Look at v.4: "chosen of God and precious"  
**APPLICATION**:
  - (i) What you think of Christ will determine how you live
  - (ii) And, more still, how you die

## **CONCLUSION**

Remember Christ's own illustration of Moses lifting up the serpent of brass.  
Then LOOK to Christ and you will find him precious.

**PSALM**  
**22: 1 – 6**  
**40: 5 – 8**  
**118: 20 – 26**