

Dawn Bailey  
TH602.NLS  
5-3-1 Bird 4.1-4.3.4

### **Questions**

1. What is one of the ways Michael Bird describes Christology?
2. What is Christology from below?
3. What is Christology from above?
4. Why is the Virgin conception important?
5. What are three things that Jesus's life contributed to Christology?

### **Answers**

1. Bird believes it is important to remember that a Christology "rooted in the Gospel is going to define God and describe the storyline of the God who was in the Messiah reconciling the world to himself."(397)
2. Christology from below is an attempt to anchor Christian teaching about Jesus in history.(400)
3. Christology from above begins with the church's proclamation of who Jesus was, is, and will yet be. (403)
4. The Virgin conception is important because it shows the divinity of Jesus. He was not just a good man, he is the God/Man.
5. Jesus himself must be regarded as the church's primary theological source, he is the glue that connects Israel's hopes with the church's faith, and it focuses on his life a "fully" human. (433-435)

### **Terms** (all definitions from the Merriam-Webster dictionary)

1. Christology – theological interpretation of the person and work of Christ.
2. Incarnate – invested with bodily and especially human nature and form.
3. Atonement – the reconciliation of God and humankind through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

### **Summary**

This section of Bird's *Evangelical Theology* covers the first part of developing a Christology. He stresses the importance of Jesus Christ being God's son as fully divine and fully man. He also covers the methods of developing this Christology, historical Jesus or who the church proclaimed he was, is, and will yet be. And finally this section covered the life of Jesus in relation to the Old Testament, why it was important that his birth was through the Virgin conception, and his baptism, choosing the twelve and his ministry.

