

**Concordia Theological Seminary**  
**Continuing Education**

**WHO IS JESUS? CONFRONTING CURRENT  
CHRISTOLOGICAL CONTROVERSY**

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**Albuquerque, NM**

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**Course Description**

This class will review the challenges to the divine identity of Jesus that have arisen over the past two centuries and are seen in the media today, especially at Christmas and Easter. Ways of confronting these controversies, based upon careful historical study of New Testament texts being done by several scholars, will be discussed.

**Course Outline**

- I. Introduction: Challenges to Jesus' Divine Identity
- II. Important Categories for Expressing Jesus' Divine Identity
  - A. The Early Worship of Jesus
  - B. Jesus' Death as Universal Atonement
  - C. The Son's Pre-Incarnate Existence
  - D. Jesus' Possession of the Divine Name
  - E. Jesus' Self-Identification as the Son of Man
- III. The Growing Popularity of the Gnostic Gospels: How Do We Respond?
- IV. Conclusion: Confessing Jesus' Divine Identity Today

**Required Text**

Hurtado, Larry W. *Lord Jesus Christ: Devotion to Jesus in Earliest Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

**Other Readings**

Gieschen, Charles A. "Confronting Current Christological Controversy." *Concordia Theological Quarterly* 69 (2005): 3-32.

Gieschen, Charles A. "The Lamb (Not the Man) on the Divine Throne." In *Israel's God and Rebecca's Children: Christology and Community in Early Judaism and Christianity. Essays in Honor of Larry W. Hurtado and Alan F. Segal*. Edited by David B. Capes, April D. DeConick, Helen K. Bond, and Troy A. Miller. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2008. Pages 227-243 and 427-432.

Gieschen, Charles A. "The Real Presence of the Son Before Christ: Revisiting an Old Approach to Old Testament Christology." *Concordia Theological Quarterly* 68 (2004): 103-126.

Khola, Jeffrey. "Jesus and the Gnostic Gospels." *Concordia Theological Quarterly* 71 (2007): 121-144.

The book can be purchased in advance from the CTS Bookstore. Pastors should have copies of the *CTQ* articles in their collection; if not they can be accessed at *Pro Bono* (see Walther Library on the seminary website). "The Lamb (Not the Man) on the Divine Throne" article will be distributed to all when the course begins.