

Who is the Jesus who is said to be Christ?

1. The Jesus who is said to be Christ is not the empirical-historical Jesus, but rather the existential-historical Jesus.

2. As such, Jesus is the decisive re-presentation of the meaning of God for us.

3. The meaning of God for us has two essential aspects: God as authorizing the authentic understanding of our existence; and our authentic self-understanding as authorized by God. Consequently, as the decisive re-presentation of the meaning of God for us, Jesus is at once the decisive revelation of God and the decisive authorization of our authentic self-understanding.

4. To be thus decisive, however, presupposes being fully explicit (although the converse does not hold: being fully explicit does not imply being decisive). Thus, because Jesus is the decisive re-presentation of the meaning of God for us, and therefore at once the decisive revelation of God as authorizing a certain self-understanding and the decisive authorization of a certain self-understanding as authorized by God, Jesus is also the fully explicit presentation, and, in that sense, the *re*-presentation, of the meaning of God for us.

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