

### CHAPTER SEVEN THE SELF-UNDERSTANDING OF JESUS

#### I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. How has the portrait of the historical Jesus changed from the Old Quest through the New Quest to today?
2. How does the “burden of proof” issue underlie the negative use of the so-called criteria of authenticity?

#### II. ASSESSMENT

3. Why is Meier’s distinction between the historical Jesus and the real Jesus inept? How should the distinction be rightly drawn?
4. Why is “the criteria of authenticity” a misnomer? How are they to be rightly understood?
5. Explain some of the most important criteria of authenticity. Think of examples of events/sayings in the Gospels which are shown to be authentic by use of such criteria.
6. What fundamental problem confronts those who deny that Jesus made any claims implying his divinity?
7. Give a defense of the authenticity of Jesus’ claim to be the Messiah. What is the theological significance of Jesus’ messianic self-understanding?
8. Give a defense of the authenticity of Jesus’ claim to be the Son of God. What is the theological significance of Jesus’ filial self-understanding?
9. Give a defense of the authenticity of Jesus’ claim to be the Son of Man. What is the theological significance of Jesus’ self-understanding as the Son of Man?
10. What is “implicit Christology?”
11. Explain several examples of implicit Christological claims made by Jesus.