

## **Abstract**

### **Basic approaches and lines in the Christological work of Joseph Ratzinger – Benedict XVI.**

The thesis gives an outline of Joseph Ratzinger – Benedict XVI's Christology. It focuses on the Pope's two-volume book about Jesus and the disputation it raised in the theological world. The first chapter presents a brief biography of Joseph Ratzinger, the second chapter deals with basic methodological approaches towards Christology: the relationship between historical and theological exegesis and between the Old and New Testaments, also the relation between biblical faith and philosophical (historical) reason. The third chapter presents the basic lines of Ratzinger's theology – incarnation, mystery of Jesus' life, theology of the cross and soteriology.

In his Christology Ratzinger strives for a synthesis of historical-critical and ecclesiastical-theological exegesis and for the connection of philosophical (historical) reason and biblical faith. Model of the synthesis is incarnation: unification of divine and human nature in the person of the Word incarnate. On the ground of this unity not only historical, but also theological interpretation of the Gospel is possible, and also the christological interpretation of the Old Testament.

The central topic of Ratzinger's Christology is confession of Jesus as God's Son incarnate. Ratzinger regards Jesus' relationship to Father as the centre of his mystery and the interpretation key to all Christology. Compared to his older works, Benedict XVI lays more emphasis on the divine identity of God's Son without reducing the importance of his human nature. Centre of this theology is the very God, who became close in Jesus and who is the true salvation of humans as well as the whole world.

**Key words: Joseph Ratzinger – Benedict XVI., Christology, Soteriology, Cross, Incarnation**