

## Contraries Are Not Self-Contradictory

Christological language has the form of two contrary statements affirmed in tandem. The two statements are irreducible.

That is, they cannot be combined into some third statement which synthesizes and harmonizes them. In terms of formal logic, the pairs of statements are contraries, not contradictories.

If the Christological pair of statements were placed in contradictory form, two pairs of statements would be required: “Jesus is truly human / Jesus is not truly human” and “Jesus is truly divine / Jesus is not truly divine,” with each pair of statements being a self-contradiction.

If christological language were self-contradictory, it would indeed be illegitimate. But the positive statements “Jesus is truly human / Jesus is truly divine,” though they are logically troublesome as contraries, are not self-contradictory.

We will deal with the relation of paradoxical language to strict logic in a later section, but we should note here that while in strict logic contraries cannot both be true, contraries are not self-contradictions, and Christological language should not be called contradictory.

(Truly Human / Truly Divine: Christological Language and the Gospel Form by M. Eugene Boring, St. Louis, Missouri: CBP Press, 1984, 94, Text and Paragraph Structure Modified)