

Biblical Theology

U4L1: The Person of Christ Part 1

Summary Statement

- Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man in one person, and will be so forever.
 - Much like trinity.
 - Inadequate Views
 - Docetism
 - **Origin:** First century Gnosticism and Marcionism
 - **Belief:** Jesus was only an apparition, not a human being.
 - **Problem:** Eliminates Jesus' humanity which nullifies many aspects of God's plan of redemption.
 - Apollinarianism
 - **Origin:** Apollinaris – Bishop in Laodicea in A.D. 361
 - **Belief:** Jesus had a human body but divine mind / spirit.
 - **Problem:** *Hebrews 2:17...fully human in every way...*
 - Nestorianism
 - **Origin:** Nestorius - Teacher in Antioch around A.D. 428
 - **Belief:** Jesus was two distinct persons, one divine and one human.
 - **Problem:** Never indicated in scriptures as dual persons.
 - Monophysitism (Eutychianism)
 - **Origin:** Eutyches – Leader of Monastery at Constantinople early 400s.
 - **Belief:** Mixture of Christ's human and divine natures became a new type of nature. (Like a chemical reaction)
 - **Problem:** Could not truly represent God or truly represent man.
 - Kenotic Heresy
 - **Origin:** Liberal theology
 - **Belief:** When Jesus emptied himself out, he ceased being fully God.
 - **Problem:** *Philippians 2:5-11 - Christ is Lord, to the glory of God*

Christ's Humanity: Birth and Growth

1. **Jesus was born a human baby through a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit.**
 - *Isaiah 7:14 - the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*
 - *Matthew 1:18 - she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.*
 - *Matthew 1:20 - for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*
2. **Jesus grew mentally and physically as any other human boy.**
 - *Luke 2:40 - And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.*
 - *Luke 2:49 - Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?*
 - *Luke 2:52 - Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.*

Christ's Humanity: Weaknesses and Limitations

1. **Jesus had a human body.**
 - *John 4:6 - Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well.*
 - *John 19:28 - knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."*
 - *Matthew 4:2 - And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.*
 - *Luke 23:26 - laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus.*
 - *Luke 23:46 - And having said this he breathed his last.*
2. **Jesus had a human mind.**
 - *Luke 2:52 - Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.*
 - *Mark 13:32 - not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*

3. **Jesus had human emotions.**
 - *John 11:35 – Jesus wept.*
 - *John 2:15 - And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple,*
 - *Luke 22:42-45 - his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*
4. **Jesus was regarded as human by those who knew him.**
 - *Mark 6:3 - Isn't this the carpenter?*

Christ's Humanity: Significance

- Necessary in order to be representative of obedience.
 - *Romans 5:18-19 - obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*
- Necessary in order to be substitute sacrifice.
 - *Hebrews 2:16-17 - and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.*
- Necessary in order to be mediator and Priest.
 - *1 Timothy 2:5 - one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus*
 - *Hebrews 4:15-16 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize*
- Necessary in order to restore God's image.
 - *1 John 3:5 - But And in him is no sin.*
 - *Hebrews 4:15 - yet he did not sin.*
 - *Romans 8:29 - he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son*
 - *2 Corinthians 3:18 - are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory*
- Love for us is displayed in that...he will forever be a man...
 - Every depiction of the son is in human form...even in Revelation.

Discussion Questions

1. Prior to today's class do you feel you had an accurate view of Jesus' dual nature as 100% man and 100% God? How has it changed?
2. How can a clearer understanding of Jesus' humanity help you face temptations and obstacles to obedience?
3. Jesus becoming man is something that is permanent. What does this tell you about God's love for us?

Reading Assignment

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem – Chapter 26: Person of Christ (Section B: 'The Deity of Christ' to end of chapter)