

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



LAST TIME

- The Trinity
- One essence, three persons
 - Father
 - Son
 - Holy Spirit

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

- Christology- the study of Christ's person and work.
- The person, deity, and humanity of Christ
- Who and what is Christ?

THE PERSON OF CHRIST

- Who is Jesus Christ from a Christian perspective?
- The New Testament teaches that Jesus is both fully God and fully man.

THE DEITY OF CHRIST

- Scripture teaches that Christ is fully God.
- Many proofs in the previous section of the Trinity.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

ESV

THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST

- Scripture teaches that Jesus is fully human.
- This aspect often under-emphasized by Christians.

THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST

- Many times the deity of Christ is what is most attacked by cults, Unitarians, and Muslims.
- This means we tend to defend that aspect more.

ASPECTS OF HUMANITY

- Jesus experienced human birth.
- Jesus experienced temptation.
- Jesus had physical limitations.
- Jesus was mentally limited.
- Jesus was tortured and died.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

LUKE 2:7, 11

ESV

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

MATTHEW 4:1

ESV

And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was
hungry.

MATTHEW 4:2

ESV

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and
in favor with God and man.

LUKE 2:52

ESV

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

MARK 13:32

ESV

And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

LUKE 23:33, 46

ESV

WHAT ABOUT THOSE THAT DENY?

- Denying the humanity of Christ is blatant heresy.
- The Bible condemns those who do.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

1 JOHN 4:1-3

ESV

HYPOSTATIC UNION OF CHRIST

- Jesus is truly God.
- Jesus is truly human.
- That is to say that he possess all the necessary and essential attributes of God and of man.
- Remember- to remove any necessary attribute removed the very essence of that that thing is.

ALEXANDRIAN CHRISTOLOGY

- Monophysitism or dyophysitism?
- One nature or two natures?
- A nature is a property that is something that it could not lack and still be what it is.

ALEXANDRIAN (MONOPHYSITISM)

- Center in Alexandria, Egypt.
- Apollinarus & Athanasius

APOLLINAIUS

- People made up of three components:
 - Physical body
 - Soul- Animal nature
 - Mind- rational, intellectual component

APPOLLINARIUS

HERESY!

- Essentially argued that the Logos was the mind of Jesus and the other two components were human.
- Argued that they must have a common component, if not you get indwelling, not incarnation.

PROBLEMS WITH APPOLLINARIUS

- A body without a mind is a truncation of human nature.
- Jesus could not have been all man if no human mind.
- If Jesus did not have a human mind, then the mind could not be redeemed.

ANTIOCHEAN (DYOPHYSITISM)

HERESY!

- Holds that Jesus had two complete natures:
 - One human
 - One man
- Essentially two hypostasis. Sounds like two persons. (Think trinity)

COUNCIL OF CALCEDON

- 451 AD
- Attempted to provide some guidelines for understanding the hypostatic union of Christ.

- We confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable soul and body; consubstantial [and the word there is homoousios, having the same substance] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial [homoousios] with us according to the Manhood; like us in all things except sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God [theotokos], according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the difference of the natures being by no means taken away because of the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person [prosopon] and one Subsistence [hypostasis], not divided or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten God, Word, Lord Jesus Christ;

SUMMARY

- Affirms two complete natures of Christ.
- Affirms only one person.
- Affirms Mary as his human mother.

FAMOUS ADJECTIVES

- Without confusion. (Nature)
- Without change. (Nature)
- Without division. (Person)
- Without separation. (Person)

Essentially do not confuse the nature nor divide the person.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?



NEXT TIME

- Next Week
- Read:
 - Defenders 2-6- The Doctrine of Christ- Pages 25-52

QUESTIONS?