

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



LAST TIME

- Two nature of Christ-
 - His humanity
 - His deity
- Christ has two complete natures. He is fully human and fully divine.
- Christ is one person.

KENOTIC CHRISTOLOGY

- Jump forward to the 21st century.
- Comes from the Greek word *kenosis*-
 - To empty himself

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.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7

ESV

KENOTIC CHRISTOLOGY

- The concept is that Christ emptied himself of part of his divine attribute to become human.
- Attempts to resolves the perceived issues of all God and yet seemingly missing aspects of God.

QUESTIONS ABOUT KENOSIS

- How many & which attributes did he surrender?
- If the Logos turned himself into a man, what is the relationship between that man and the Logos?
 - Are they identical?
 - Is he another person?
- Which attributes are essential to God and which ones are merely contingent so God can give them up?

REMEMBER CHALCEDON

- Taught that in no way was Christ's nature diminished- human or divine.
- Does Kenoticism deny the deity of Christ?

DONALD BAILLIE

Does Christianity, then, teach that God changed into a Man? . . . That at a certain point of time, God . . . was transformed into a human being for a period of about thirty years? It is hardly necessary to say that the Christian doctrine of the Incarnation means nothing like that. . . . it would be grotesque to suggest that the Incarnation has anything in common with the metamorphoses of ancient pagan mythology . . . (ancient stories, for example, of Zeus' turning himself into a swan or changing into a bull. Baillie says the Christian doctrine of the incarnation is not at all like that. He goes on to say,)

. . . the deity and humanity of Christ are not merely successive stages . . . as if He had first been God, then Man, then after the days of His flesh were past, God again, with manhood left behind.

CONT.

- The doctrine of the incarnation does not teach that Christ turned himself into a human and ceased to be God, just to reassume his divinity at the ascension ceasing to be man.
- He is all God and all man.

THOUGHTS

- What properties are essential to being God?
- God cannot cease to be God!

THE INCARNATION

- The event of Christ being born in human flesh.
- Of vital apologetic significance.
- Many groups deny the incarnation (Muslims).
 - Omnipotent vs. limited power
 - Omnipresent vs. living in Judea
 - Eternal vs. life of 30 or so years.
 - Omniscient vs. not knowing.

POSSIBLE MODEL

- We do not have to explain how Jesus is really both God and man.
- Possible Model, not for sure.
 - Plank 1- Affirm Two Natures and One Person
 - Plank 2-The Logos Was the Rational Soul of Jesus
 - Plank 3- The Divine Aspects of Jesus Were Subconscious

PLANK 1

- Affirm Two Natures and One Person
- *...we should postulate with Chalcedon that in Christ there is one person who exemplifies two distinct and complete natures – one human and one divine.*

PLANK 1 OBJECTIONS

- Kenoticists might argue that attributes of God like omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, et al are not essential to deity.
- They are contingent, not essential.
- If that is true, then God is not really God.

PLANK 1 OBJECTIONS

- Divine attributes cannot be temporarily go en up as the Kenoticists might say.
- The difference between can do and able to do. If Jesus gave up omnipotence but is able to get it back at any time, isn't he still omnipotent.

PLANK 2

- The Logos Was the Rational Soul of Jesus
- ...agree with Apollinarius that the Logos was the rational soul of Jesus of Nazareth.

PLANK 2

- There seems to be need for some common element between the divine nature and the human nature to have a genuine union.
- The Logos was the archetypal man.
- Possible that the Logos contained the human personality archetypally in his own nature.

PLANK 2

- If true, the Logos would simply have to bring those properties into conjunction or union with a human body.
- This way Christ is both truly God and truly human. All properties of both.
- The body could not exist without the soul (Logos)

PLANK 3

- The Divine Aspects of Jesus Were Subconscious
- *...we postulate that the divine aspects of Jesus' personality were largely subliminal during his incarnation on Earth prior to the resurrection and ascension.*

PLANK 3

- This would account for:
 - Growing in wisdom.
 - Growing in knowledge.
 - Temptation.
 - Ignorance of certain facts.
 - Struggles.
 - Prayer life.

QUESTIONS



NEXT TIME

- Next Week
- Read:
 - Defenders 2-6- The Doctrine of Christ- Pages 53-94

QUESTIONS?