

The Deity of Christ

Introduction

- Last week we examined the doctrine of the Incarnation of Christ, that Christ became man and dwelt among us. We looked at why He came the nature of His humanity.
- Today we will examine the His Divinity: that Christ was God.
- We will follow the outline from Henry Thiessen's *Lectures in Systemic Theology*.

Proofs of Christ's Deity

- Attributes of Deity
 - Eternal – John 1:1, Isaiah 9:6 “Everlasting Father”
 - Omnipresence – John 3:13, Mathew 28:20
 - Omniscience – John 16:30, 21:17
 - Omnipotence – Revelation 1:8 “The Almighty”
 - Immutability – Hebrews 13:8
- Offices of Deity
 - Creator – John 1:3, Hebrews 1:10
 - Upholder – Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 1:3
- Prerogatives of Deity
 - Forgives sin – Matthew 9:1-8
 - Raises the dead – John 11:25,43-44
- Identified with the Jehovah of the Old Testament
 - Example: Isaiah seeing God in Isaiah 6. In John 12:41 it says he saw Christ.
- Names imply His Deity
 - Immanuel – “God with us” – Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:22-23
 - Word – John 1:1-5
 - Son of Man – Example: Son of Man forgiving sins in Matthew 9:6
 - Lord – Acts 16:31
 - Son of God – John 3:16
 - God – John 1:1, 20:28
- Relationships
 - Equal to the Father and Spirit – Matthew 28:19
 - Equal to the Father – John 10:30
- He Received Worship
 - Commandments that only God should be worshipped – Exodus 34:14, Matthew 4:10
 - Examples: Matthew 14:33, 15:25, 28:9
- He Claimed Deity
 - Note the claim and reaction in John 10:30-33

The Two Natures of Christ

- “The truth of the two natures is fully demonstrated; the mystery resides in their coexistence in one person.” – Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*
- Christ’s Divinity and Humanity were not two separate personas, *a la* Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Instead, Christ was *one* Being with *two* natures.
- The theological term used to describe this dual nature is the *hypostatic union*.
 - This refers both to the two natures of Christ but also can be applied to the Three Persons of the Trinity.
 - As a mathematical equation, this would be 100% Humanity + 100% Divinity = 100% Christ.
 - In this combination of natures, neither is altered for better or worse by the presence of the other.
- The 1742 *Philadelphia Confession of Faith* puts it this way:
 - The Son of God, the second person in the Holy Trinity, being very and eternal God, the brightness of the Father's glory, of one substance and equal with him who made the world, who upholdeth and governeth all things he hath made, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit coming down upon her: and the power of the Most High overshadowing her; and so was made of a woman of the tribe of Judah, of the seed of Abraham and David according to the Scriptures; **so that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion; which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ**, the only mediator between God and man.
[emphasis added]