

Topeka Bible Church – Men’s Fraternity

Root Issues: A Study of Christian Doctrine

Lesson 9: *Mary’s Little Lamb*

November 10, 2010

I. The INCARNATION: The “Supreme Mystery and Miracle”

A. What *Incarnation* means: “_____ - _____ - _____.”

Central text: John 1:14

B. What it ISN’T :

... an idea borrowed from pagan mythology (TV, university).

... the result of sex between the Father and Mary (Mormonism).

... the inspiring story of man becoming God (Mormonism, New Ageism).

... the story of how the Second Person of the Trinity came to exist.

... God the Trinity becoming a man.

C. What it IS: THE HYPOSTATIC UNION:

Jesus was fully (100%) _____ *and* fully (100%) _____.

D. The Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.)

E. The story of how it happened: *Luke 1:30-38*

F. The 3 central texts: John 1, Colossians 1, Hebrews 1.

II. JESUS the LOGOS: The WORD of God (John 1:1-14)

1. The Logos is e_____.
2. The Logos has always been _____ God as an equal.
3. Yet the Logos is d_____ from God the Father.
4. The Logos is the Creator of all things, therefore eternal, omnipotent, etc.
5. The Logos became flesh.

III. JESUS WAS FULLY GOD.

1. G_____ said Jesus was God.

Hebrews 1:8

2. D_____ said Jesus was God.

Mark 1:34

3. J_____ said he was God.

Corroborating evidence: the accusation of his enemies

Matthew 26:63-65

John 5:18; 8:58-59; 10:30-33

4. The _____ says he was God.

John 20:28; Romans 9:5; Colossians 1:19; Titus 2:13 3:4; 1 John 5:20

5. More evidence that Jesus was God.
 - a. Jesus had the attributes of God.
 - b. Jesus did the works of God.
 - c. Jesus accepted worship as God.

IV. JESUS WAS FULLY HUMAN.

Luke 2:52

1 John 4:2-3

V. FAMOUS AND DANGEROUS HERESIES

1. Docetism (c. 100 A.D.)
2. Adoptionism (c. 200 A.D.)
3. Arianism (c. 250 A.D.)
4. Apollinarianism (c. 350 A.D.)
5. Nestorianism (c. 400 A.D.)

VI. THE CONTINUING DEBATE: *The Kenosis Debate*

Philippians 2:5-11 _____ = "emptying"

Classical view: Christ exercised his divine attributes while on earth.

Kenotic view: Christ emptied himself of his divine attributes when he became man.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. How is Jesus' incarnation a source of great comfort to us? How is Jesus Christ like us? Contrarily, how is Jesus Christ unlike us?
2. What difference does the doctrine of the incarnation make in our lives? What impact does the incarnation make on our evangelism?
3. Spend time praying with the men at your table. Ask God to help you understand the mystery of the incarnation of Jesus Christ and its implications in your life this week.