

Sermon Notes
“Veiled In Flesh” -December 20, 2020
Philippians 2:5-11

“The first King-sized bed”

- But “King” only begins to describe who Jesus is
- Jesus is God’s facial recognition – “Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity.”

Why we need doctrine

- John 8:31-32 – “the truth will set you free”

“Incarnation” – a central truth of the Bible

- Jesus is “in very nature God” and “made in human likeness” (Philippians 2:6 and 7)
- Jesus is fully God and fully human

What is the Incarnation?

- Wrong Ways

- ◊ Jesus just looks human – the Superman illustration
- ◊ Jesus is just a human being with divine power – the Luke Skywalker illustration
- ◊ Jesus was the first being ever created – the Jehovah Witnesses’ belief
- ◊ Jesus was just one “mode” of God – the belief that God appears as Father in the Old Testament, Son in the Gospels, and Holy Spirit in the rest of the New Testament
- ◊ Jesus is a blend of human and divine – the “purple” illustration

- Right Answers

- ◊ Jesus is fully human, just like you and me – Hebrews 2:14
- ◊ Jesus is fully God – Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:6
- ◊ Jesus is the Son, with the Father and the Holy Spirit from eternity and for eternity – Isaiah 45:23 and Philippians 2:10-11
- ◊ Jesus the Son is present with the Father and the Holy Spirit throughout the Bible – Daniel 7:13-14
- ◊ Jesus experienced human reality and depended upon the Holy Spirit – Luke 4:18-19; Matthew 12:28

- Big Conclusions

- ◊ Nicene Creed (325 AD): “Jesus is the Son of God, of the essence of God, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not created, of one substance with the Father.”
- ◊ Chalcedonian Definition (451 AD): Jesus is one person in two natures (divine and human). These are: “without confusion, without change, without division, without separation.”

Why is the Incarnation so important?

- When something is lost we must go to where the item is AND make sure we are able to retrieve it.
- Only someone who is fully human can stand in our place
- Only someone who is fully God can reveal God’s love to put humanity right with God

What difference does the Incarnation make?

- “As the Father sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:21)
 - ◊ We show God’s love by being sacrificial (1 John 4:9)
 - ◊ We enter the “mess” of humanity. This means rethinking our priorities – not looking after our own needs, but being like Christ. So, what really matters this Christmas?

“Veiled in flesh the Godhead see. Hail the incarnate Deity.” Amen!