

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

WEEK 3 - CHRISTOLOGY

DEFINITION OF CHRISTOLOGY: The Doctrine/Study of Christ (nature, character, attributes, incarnation).

CHRISTOLOGY OF THE GOSPEL WRITERS

1. Matthew - Jesus is the King who has come to bring in the kingdom (His royalty)
2. Mark - Jesus has come as a lowly Servant (His humility)
3. Luke - Jesus is the Man who has come to save (His humanity)
4. John - Jesus is the Son of God (His deity)

NATURE OF CHRIST

- A. John 1: 1-3 (read)
 1. Christ is eternal
 2. Christ co-existed with God
 3. Christ is God
 4. Christ is creator
- B. Paul's Epistles
 1. Col. 2:9 - All the fullness of God dwelt in Him bodily.
 2. Col. 1:15 - He is the firstborn of all creation (means He inherits all things and is before all others).
 3. Col. 1:17 - He is before all things (He exists eternally).
 4. Phil. 2:6-8
 - a) Jesus was in His very nature God.
 - b) He did not have to grasp to be equal with God, because He was God; He did not demand or cling to His rights as God.
 - c) He made Himself nothing ,took upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made in human likeness .
 - d) He was in the appearance of a man, He humbled Himself, and was obedient to the death of the cross.

RELATIONSHIP OF CHRIST IN THE TRINITY

1. He is the SECOND PERSON of the Godhead (Trinity) ... (Matt. 28:19).
2. He is ONE with God ... (John 10:30).
3. He is the ONLY BEGOTTEN Son of God ... (John 3: 16) - not created by God.
4. He is CREATOR ... (John 1:3 - all things were made by Him; Heb. 1:2 - God made the universe through His Son; 1 Cor. 8:6 - all things came through Jesus Christ).
5. He is SUSTAINER ... (Col. 1:17 - in Him all things consist) -- if Christ stops existing, there is no more universe!

CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. He is referred to as Yahweh (Psalms 68:18; Eph. 4:8-10; Jer. 23:5-6; 1 Cor. 1:30; Zech. 12:10; Rev. 1:7) ... this speaks of God's holiness , nearness, and love -- Jesus Christ is the ultimate expression of these things.
2. He is referred to as Elohim (Isaiah 40:3; Psalms 68:18) ... this speaks of God's divine majesty and power -- Jesus Christ shares in these things.
3. He is referred to as Adonai (Mal. 3:1; Psalms 110:1,4; Heb. 7:17 ... means Lord and Master).
4. He is referred to as The Angel of the Lord (Gen. 16:7-13; Gen. 24:7; Judges 5:23) ... these were appearances of GOD the SON before His birth as a human.

THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST

1. DEFINITION:
* God became man, not God was turned into a man, or God stopped being God and started being man ... but the Word remained God and took on a human nature, uniting this to His divine nature in ONE person - Jesus Christ.
2. HIS DIVINE NATURE:
Col. 2:9 - ALL we can say about God we must say about Christ ... He is FULLY GOD! (in essence, nature and attributes)
3. HIS HUMAN NATURE: (From secular definition of humanity)
 - a) Physical body (John 1:14; John 4:9)
 - b) Conscious being with ongoing thought life
 - c) Rational, moral and spiritual capacities (Luke 2:52)
 - d) Genuine human life with growth and maturity (Heb. 5:7-8)
 - e) Human knowledge with increase and development (Luke 2:40)
 - f) Subject to temptation (Heb. 4:15)
 - g) Enduring nature beyond this life (Matt. 26:37-39; Mark 8:12)

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRIST

1. Related to God in the most intimate way possible -- called God" My Father" (Luke 2:49).
2. Worthy of all honor given to God (John 5:22, 23).
3. Power over life, and equal with God (John 5:21).
4. Came to bring salvation (Matt. 20:28).
5. Power over death (Matt. 16:21).
6. Power over the religious system (Matt. 12:6,8); power over the kingdom of Satan (Matt. 12:24-28); power to forgive sins (Mark 2:5-10).
7. Divine knowledge (John 1:27, 42; 2:25; Mark 10:21; Luke 7:37-40).

NAMES OF CHRIST

1. JESUS - same as the Hebrew Joshua .. means „Yahweh saves“ (Matt. 1:21); He was named by God the Father (Luke 1:30-31).
2. JESUS OF NAZARETH - Nazareth was a small, remote village in the rural, unsophisticated province of Galilee this shows us the incredible humanity Jesus embraced in becoming a man.
3. JESUS CHRIST - Christ is the same as the Hebrew Messiah, which means „Anointed One“, or someone set apart for a specific task.
4. IMMANUEL - means „God With Us“ ... Jesus had literally come to be with us and live with us as Almighty God, and yet as a Man .