

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**VIDEO: -OLOGY INTRO**

**SLIDE 1**

INTRODUCTION

Good Morning! Welcome to Fox Valley Christian Church!

We are digging into the ologies of the Christian faith. We are looking at what we believe and why.

Today we are going to talk about Christ. That is such a funny statement, because we talk about Christ every week. The reality of it is ... Christ is the central part of everything that we believe. Everything leads to Christ and everything comes from Christ.

Without Christ we have

- no gospel,
- no salvation,
- no redemption,
- no freedom,
- no relationship with God,
- no understanding of who God is,
- no chance

Given that, it is wise that we fully know Christ, both His nature and His works. So this week we are going to look at Christ's nature and next week we will look at His works.

## JESUS IS GOD

In order to have an appropriate discussion on the nature of Jesus, we need to have an appropriate view of Jesus.

In week two, when we discussed the Nature of God, we said that God is one and that God is three.

There is only one God, but He has three distinct personalities; Father, Son, and Spirit.

Jesus is the Son, He and God are one, He is God. This means:

- Jesus is preexisting
- Jesus is holy
- Jesus is righteous

Jesus was here far before He was ever physically born into this world. John 1 makes it clear that not only was He here in the beginning, but that everything that was created was created through Him.

So, as we look at Jesus' nature, we are going to look at His nature while He was incarnate.

**SIDE NOTE:** Incarnate means to become flesh. So when Jesus became flesh, when He (God) took on flesh, we call that the incarnation.

So what was Jesus nature when He was incarnate?

## HUMAN NATURE

First we are going to look at Jesus' human nature.

### HUMAN

And this sounds silly, but one of the greatest characteristics of Jesus' human nature was that He was in fact human. He, just like everyone of us, experienced humanity. He didn't just walk with us, He became like us.

### **BORN**

Jesus was born into this world. We know this because we celebrate it every December 25<sup>th</sup>, but this is more than just a birthday party ... this is an essential part of our faith. We believe that Jesus was fully man and to be fully man He would have to be born just like us. God could have taken on flesh and walked with us, taught us, and then sacrificed that flesh. He didn't have to humble Himself to a helpless baby, relying on man to keep Him safe. To protect Him. To nurture Him. To care for Him. This is the ultimate role reversal.

But that is exactly what God did.

### **LUKE 2:4-7**

#### **SLIDE 2**

<sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

#### **SLIDE 3**

<sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

#### **SLIDE 4**

<sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

#### **SLIDE 5**

<sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Jesus began His journey as a man in the same way that all of us did, He was born into this world.

#### **GREW**

Now we don't know much about Jesus' childhood, but what we do know is that He grew. This was a process for Him. He didn't come into this world ready to make an impact. He had to grow.

#### **LUKE 2:40**

#### **SLIDE 6**

<sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

#### **LUKE 2:52**

#### **SLIDE 7**

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Jesus grew in stature, physically, and He grew in wisdom, mentally, and He grew in favor with God and man, relationally. This is how we grow too. This is how we raise our kids to grow. We want to see them grow in all of those areas. And when they are short on anyone of those we guide them.

He grew in His relationship with God and man. Jesus was fully man, He needed to grow in His relationship with God in the same way that we do.

## **SLIDE 8**

### **LIMITED**

He was also limited. We get that. We are limited.

But Jesus, God, the unlimited, became limited. Remember, you can't limit God. Nothing outside of God can limit God, but God sometimes limits Himself. When God became man, He limited Himself.

He became weak, He became tired. We don't see any record of Jesus being sick, but we also don't see much of a record of Him being a child either. He would have been physically subject to the same colds, flus, and virus' that we experience. You have to imagine that there were times where Jesus experienced the helplessness of vomiting. Why wouldn't He? He was limited just like us, because He was fully human just like us.

### **LUKE 8:22-23**

## **SLIDE 9**

<sup>22</sup>One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out,

### **SLIDE 10**

<sup>23</sup>and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger.

### **JOHN 4:6-8**

### **SLIDE 11**

<sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

### **SLIDE 12**

<sup>7</sup>A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

### **SLIDE 13**

<sup>8</sup>(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

Jesus slept, He got tired, He got thirsty, He got hungry. He was fully human and limited just like us.

### **SLIDE 14**

### **SUFFERED**

He wasn't just limited, He suffered.

We see Him physically suffer on the cross and we see Him emotionally suffer.

One of the great marks of humanity is our emotions. We experience joy and sorrow. We experience boldness and terror.

We see Jesus experiencing the full range of human emotion.

Now, some would say, but we have these emotions because we were created in the image of our maker, and God has emotions too. God loves, God is joyful, God is saddened, God is angered.

So emotion doesn't necessarily show Jesus' human nature, right?

### **LUKE 22:42-44**

#### **SLIDE 15**

<sup>42</sup>saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

#### **SLIDE 16**

<sup>43</sup>And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

#### **SLIDE 17**

<sup>44</sup>And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

He was in agony, extreme mental distress. He knew what was coming and if there was any other way He wanted that. This is a great display of His humanity. If Jesus were not human, if He

had not become man, Jesus would not be in agony. He would not have this mental distress. Why? Because no harm could possibly come to Him. He is God.

## **SLIDE 18**

But, Jesus came to Earth and while He was here He was fully man. He was just like us. So the thought of the oncoming pain was too much for Him to bear alone. So He goes to God the Father and seeks strength, reassurance, guidance. Have you ever been on your knees before God seeking an answer, seeking guidance, seeking a way out ... so has Jesus. He was a human just like you.

## SINLESS

He was not just man though. He was a sinless man.

Jesus lived a full life, 30 plus years, and did not sin one time. He was tempted in every way, but He never sinned. He lived a perfect, sinless, human life.

## HERETICAL VIEWS

There are a couple views of Jesus' humanity that you need to know about, but we cannot except them. They are heretical. They are untrue and believing them would change what we believe entirely.

## **DOCETISM**

This is the belief that Jesus did not have a physical human body. What people saw when they saw Jesus was just a phantom or an apparition. He wasn't really physically there. Remember

when we talked about man, we said that man is body and spirit. Some people reject this because they believe that the body is evil and wicked. But God created man body and soul and said, "it is good." Both body and soul were created good. But since people believe that the physical body is bad and that our spirit is just trying to leave this wicked shell ... they also believe that Jesus couldn't possibly have had a physical body.

We know that God created body and soul good, and even more so we know that Jesus had to have a physical body because He was born, He grew, and then He sacrificed His body physically for us.

### **APOLLINARIANISM**

This view says that Jesus had a human body, but that He did not have a human mind. His body was human and separately His mind was God. This view also says that after His death and resurrection His physical body became divine.

But Jesus was human, He was a man, both body and spirit. He physically grew and suffered. He mentally grew and suffered.

These are views that cannot be accepted.

### NECESSITY FOR HIS HUMANITY

Why? Why is it necessary that He was fully man?

### **DEATH AND RESURRECTION**

If Jesus did not have a physical human body then His death and resurrection would not be possible. We have to accept that He

was fully human physically or we have to reject His death and resurrection.

## **1 CORINTHIANS 15:21**

### **SLIDE 19**

<sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

Jesus was not an apparition, He was a man that gave His body, His life. He physically died and was resurrected. He was a sacrifice to pay for what my death will never accomplish. He defeated death, so that I too might be given a new body.

### **SLIDE 20**

## **SALVATION**

If Jesus did not take on the fully human nature body and spirit, then He would not be able to save us in totality, body and spirit. If Jesus only took on the human body, He would only be able to save the human body. But we know that He became fully man, body and spirit, and therefore was able to redeem us in all things.

## **HEBREWS 2:17-18**

### **SLIDE 21**

<sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

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<sup>18</sup>For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

### MEDIATOR

If Jesus did not become fully man, He would be a limited mediator. But as we just saw in Hebrews 2:17-18 ... He suffered when tempted, so He is able to help those being tempted. He understands. When I am on my knees pleading with God, I know that my mediator and my savior understands my plea. He has lived it.

## SLIDE 23

### DIVINE NATURE

But Jesus wasn't just a man. He was and is God.

While He was here on earth, He was fully man and fully God. He was both at the same time. We see evidence of His divine nature in both the Old and the New Testament.

### OLD TESTAMENT

In the Old Testament we are told on several occasions that a redeemer is coming, a deliverer is coming, a savior is coming, the messiah is coming. This redeemer is not just a man; it is God Himself.

### ISAIAH 9:6

## SLIDE 24

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

## **SLIDE 25**

### NEW TESTAMENT

In the New Testament we are shown His divine works, His divine equality with God, and that He is worshipped.

## **DIVINE WORKS**

### JOHN 1:1-3

There is no greater divine work than creation. Creation could only come from the preexisting God. We are told in John 1 that Jesus has not only been around since the beginning but that He is God and that all things that were created were created through Him.

## **SLIDE 26**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

## **SLIDE 27**

<sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God.

## **SLIDE 28**

<sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

## **DIVINE EQUALITY**

Jesus is not just supernatural, He is not just able to do divine works, He is equal with God. He is one with God. We are shown this several times throughout the New Testament.

### **COLOSSIANS 2:9**

#### **SLIDE 29**

<sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

The whole fullness of deity, the entirety of God dwells bodily. He and God are one.

#### **SLIDE 30**

## **WORSHIPPED**

He is also worshipped. This is a big deal because God says that there is no other God but Him and that no one or nothing should be worshipped other than Him. We also see Angels saying, "Wooah, get up. Don't worship me."

### **REVELATION 5:8-12**

#### **SLIDE 31**

<sup>8</sup>And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

#### **SLIDE 32**

<sup>9</sup>And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

### **SLIDE 33**

<sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

### **SLIDE 34**

<sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,

### **SLIDE 35**

<sup>12</sup>saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

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#### HERETICAL VIEWS

There are several false views in regards to Jesus' deity, His divine nature, as well.

#### **ADOPTIONISM**

The first view is called Adoptionism. This view says that Jesus was man, but not God. He was given special privileges by God, but He himself was not God.

## **ARIANISM**

The next view is Arianism. This view says that Jesus was not God, but He was also not man. He was sort of an inbetween. According to this view the only true mediator between God and man has to be something other than God and man, something between God and man. So Jesus was the first creation of God and He is greater than man, but not God.

This is a false view. We saw early that our salvation depends on His humanity.

## **LIBERALISM**

The last view is Liberalism.

This view really doesn't have a name, it is just what most modern liberal theologians believe. They believe that Jesus was a man and not God. He was a perfect man though. He lived up to what a man is supposed to be.

He is not God, His divinity is only seen in that He was a perfect human.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS DIVINITY

None of these views can be accepted as true. All of them have to be rejected.

It is crucially important that we understand and accept the biblical teaching about the deity of Christ. This is essential. It is absolutely necessary for the whole work of redemption.

## **DEITY AND ATONEMENT**

In order for Jesus to be an atonement, a sacrifice, He must be God.

1. It is unjust for a third party to take the wrath of God

It is not just for Jesus to take our place, to be a substitute and to suffer the penalty for our sin ... if He is just a man. Even if He is a willing man, it is not just or right for Him to take our place and take the wrath of the Lawgiver.

But, if the innocent substitute is the Lawgiver Himself, if He is the judge Himself, then He is not only able to be a substitute, but it is just. He is the eternal lawgiver and Judge and He is suffering the penalty of His own law, by choice.

2. One man couldn't possibly take the sins of the entire world

A human only has one life to give. They in theory could be a substitute, but it would have to be one for one. Not one for all. But Jesus is not finite, He is not limited. He is the infinite God. So when He suffered He did not just suffer in His limited human nature, but He suffered in His divine nature as well. Therefore, His atonement was able to pay the price for all of humanity.

## **DEITY AND RESURRECTION**

In order for Jesus to defeat death, He must be God.

Others besides Jesus have been raised from the dead. By God's miraculous power any dead person can be renewed to physical life. Jesus did not have to be divine in order to experience resurrection.

BUT His resurrection was much more than this. When He arose from the dead, Jesus was not merely the recipient of God's life-giving power; He was the source. The resurrection of Jesus was the unleashing of His infinite power.

This power defeated our enemy death and it defeated the one who wielded death like a sword, Satan. No mere man could have won this victory. But Jesus is more than a man, He is more than an angel, He is God enfleshed, the embodiment of all power and authority. So the victory over death and Satan was never in doubt.

Because of this power He is able to redeem the universe. Not just a restoration, but a new, eternal, glorified creation.

### **BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus came to Earth, He was born into this world as both God and Man. He was both at the same time. He had to be.

Because of this He has experienced everything we experience. Every joy and every hurt. He understands when we cry to Him. He knows what our fight is. So He is not just compassionate to us, but willing to give His life for us.

And He didn't just sacrifice Himself in body, but He suffered as both God and man. He gave His perfect life for us and proved to be God. Not just by living a perfect life, but by dealing a deathblow to death and defeated Satan.

It is essential to everything that we believe that we know that Jesus is the Son of God, who came as a man to redeem us.

PRAY

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Something here

PRAY AND TAKE THE COMMUNION