

Question for further study - 24.11.19

Ice breaker - can you think of something that you put your trust in but is a mystery as to how they work? - Example - combustion engine, medicine etc.

On Sunday morning we talked about the incarnation, what things stood out for you?

It was mentioned on Sunday that the incarnation was a mystery, a miracle and glorious fact - how does this shape your view of the incarnation?

It was concluding at the council of Chalcedon in 451 AD that the incarnation was a 'hypostatic union', what is this theory? (*The Union of undiminished deity and perfect humanity forever, in one person*)

In order to understand this theology (Hypostatic union) we need to understand what is nature? What is a Nature?
A. Nature is the subsistence of who we are. For example a human cannot fly. It is not in our nature to fly. However a bird can fly because it is in its nature to fly.

With the incarnation, Jesus possessed two natures in one person. In doing so – He was fully God and fully man. – Jesus was not schizophrenic – in the sense that He could change “personalities” from God to man.

But this does pose many questions and questions that we can't answer? What Questions do you have about the incarnation, which you struggle to find answers for? - *For example: How can Jesus be an infant that needs to learn how to speak and still be an “all knowing” God? When did Jesus know he was fully God? Was he born solely from God or did he have part of Mary's DNA. These are great questions but the truth is we don't know the answer and that is where our faith comes in.*

Jesus was fully God and fully man at the same time. Why was this important for the salvation of humanity? *Answer - He must be a true man because the justice of God requires that the same human nature, which has sinned, should pay for sin. Also he must be fully God so that, by the power of his divinity, he might bear the weight of God's anger in his humanity and earn for us and restore to us righteousness and life.*

Read Phil 2:1-11 again - What strikes you in this passage? Spend 2 minutes and ask your small group which verse sticks out and why?

Paul asks us in verse 5 to have the same mind-set. Why is that important?

How does this, build the church up or your small group?

How can we practically show that this week?

Pray for one another and ask God to reignite the awe of the incarnation and also prayer for how you can serve one another and your community?

EXTRA -

Read these quotes and discuss what they say - first one is theologically second is practical. Do you agree or disagree?

Quote 1

In light of the profound reality of Jesus full and uncompromised deity, his incarnation was the most profound possible humiliation. For him to change in any way or to any degree, even temporarily but the divine decree of his father, required descent. By definition to forsake perfection requires taking on some form of imperfection. Yet without forsaking or in any way diminishing his perfect deity or his absolute holiness, in a way that is far beyond human comprehension, the creator took on the form of the created. The infinite became finite, the sinless took sin upon himself. The very heart of the gospel of redemption is that the father “made him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him (2 cor 5:21). Although that infinitely marvellous and cardinal gospel truth is impossible to understand it is necessary to believe. Agree or disagree?

Quote 2 - in reference to the church in the west.

As children of the king, they believe that they deserve to live like royalty although the king of kings the Lord Jesus Christ often had nowhere to lay his head (matt8:20) and commands his follower to take my yolk upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart (matt 11:29) it is not by accident that the first beatitude reads “blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven matt5:3) - Should we be poor?