

Leadership Training - Session 4 (6/11/13)

Doctrinal Basis e:

The Lord Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son, is fully God; he was born of a virgin; his humanity is real and sinless; he died on the cross, was raised bodily from death and is now reigning over heaven and earth.

What aspects of Jesus' life display his humanity?

What aspects of Jesus' life display his divinity?

Possible verses: Luke 2:40, Mark 2:5, John 1:1, John 1:14, John 8:58, Hebrews 4:15

Jesus is fully God and fully man. In the early church, some denied that Jesus was fully God (Arians; like modern Jehovah Witnesses), others denied that Jesus was really human (Docetists). But as both are clearly taught in the Bible, we say *Jesus is one person with two natures*.

Additionally, Jesus...

- **Was born of a virgin** (Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:34): Not a myth or symbolic but literal! Fulfills Isaiah's prophecy.
- **Was sinless** (2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 2:22): As he is fully God, it was impossible for Jesus to sin; but as he was fully man he was truly tempted to sin, yet resisted.
- **Died on the cross and was raised bodily** (Luke 24:39): the cross and resurrection were real historical events. His resurrection wasn't simply spiritual, but he had a body.
- **Is now reigning** (Philippians 2:9, Colossians 3:1): Through the ascension Jesus is already at the right hand of God, ruling all things.

Doctrinal Basis f:

Sinful human beings are redeemed from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of our representative and substitute Jesus Christ, the only mediator between them and God.

Last time we saw that all humans are sinful and guilty before God (Romans 3:23). This statement describes what Jesus has done to redeem or rescue us.

Models of the Atonement (or What Happened on the Cross?)

- **The Cross as Victory** - On the cross, Jesus defeated the spiritual forces that were against God (and us) and demonstrated his power and authority. (Colossians 2:15)

- **The Cross as Example** - On the cross, Jesus gave the supreme example of endurance in the face of unjust suffering. (1 Peter 2:21)

In what way is the cross an example to us?

What problems might there be if we ONLY view the cross as an example?

- **The Cross as Substitutionary Sacrifice** - On the cross, Jesus died in our place, as a substitute. It is *penal* substitution because it deals with the penalty of our sin. (1 Peter 2:24)

The Primacy of Substitution

The cross can also be described as reconciliation, redemption, forgiveness, salvation, a demonstration of love. How are these models related? They are not just different ways of looking at the atonement. Rather, substitution is THE central idea from which all others flow.

- Repeatedly the Bible describes Jesus taking our place (eg Isaiah 53, Mark 10:45, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13, 2 Peter 3:18).
- Only substitution can take away our sin, fulfilling the OT types of sacrifice (John 1:29, Hebrews 9:22). This is *expiation*.
- Only substitution can deal with God's wrath against our sin. This is *propitiation* – God's anger is turned away from us, and onto Jesus (Romans 3:25, 1 John 4:10).

The Importance of the Substitute

The person and work of Christ can't be divided. The substitute had to be sinless – a lamb without a blemish. To paraphrase Anselm: only man *should*, only God *could* make atonement for our sin. So the God-man Jesus was uniquely able to be the substitute.

The Result of the Substitution

Christians are free from the guilt, penalty and power of sin. That is we are not guilty in God's sight, need have no fear of judgement, and are no longer slaves to sin. We can have full assurance that God's wrath against our sin has been dealt with. (Romans 8:1).

Objections: Some object to the substitutionary view of the atonement. How could you respond to comments like these?

"I don't like the idea of an angry, wrathful God."

"How could God pour out his wrath on an innocent third party?"

"Why couldn't God just forgive sin, rather than torturing his son?"