

Dec. 6, 2020
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
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Text: *John 1:1-14*

Understanding the Incarnation: Truly God, Truly Man

John's Description of the True Identity of our Glorious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

1. The Pre-Existent Word
2. The Personal Word
3. The Divine Word
4. The Creator (of all that is not God)
5. The Self-Existent Author of Being (Life)
6. The Self-Existent Revealer of Truth (Light)
7. The Incarnate Word
8. The Only Begotten of the Father
9. The Intrinsically Glorious One – Undiminished Deity
10. The Manifest Glorious One – Perfect Humanity
11. The Beneficent Grace Benefactor
vs. 16 (a transliteration) “of His fullness we all receive one grace after another ... more grace replacing already received grace (like fresh manna every morning in our desert dwelling places).”

Suggestions for Further Study & Discussion

1. Read the first chapter of John's gospel and note the various names of Christ appearing in the text. Identify which names speak of Him in His deity and which names speak of Him in His humanity.
2. Review the first three chapters of John's gospel and note appearances of the key word "believe". Attempt to summarize the content which is to be believed, and particularly that content that relates directly to Christ in His personal nature, human and divine, and to John's purpose in writing as explicitly expressed in John 20:30-31.
3. Compare the text passage, John 1:1-14, with other Scriptures that speak of the nature of the person of Christ, considering in particular such texts as: Phil. 2:5-11; Heb.1:1-4; 2:9-10, 14-18; 5:1-10; I John 4:2-3; ; II John 2:7
4. Discuss the relation of the precise terms used to define the person and nature of the Incarnate Christ in The Chalcedonian Definition to the essential elements in His complete work of salvation.

The Chalcedonian Definition

(451 AD)

So, following the holy fathers, we all with one voice teach the confession of one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: the same perfect in divinity and perfect in humanity, the same truly God and truly man, of a rational soul and a body; of one essence with the Father as regards His divinity, and the same of one essence with us as regards his humanity; like us in all respects except for sin; begotten before the ages from the Father as regards His divinity, and in the last days, for us and for our salvation, the same born of Mary, the virgin God-bearer, as regards His humanity.

He is one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, acknowledged in two natures which undergo no confusion, no change, no division, no separation. At no point was the difference between the natures taken away through the union, but rather the property of both natures is preserved and comes together into a single person and a single subsistent being. He is not parted or divided into two persons, but is one and the same only-begotten Son, God, Word, Lord Jesus Christ, just as the prophets taught from the beginning about Him, and as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself instructed us, and as the creed of the fathers handed it down to us.

Essential elements in the complete and wholly gracious work of salvation planned in the Intra-Trinitarian council of the Godhead before the foundation of the world.:

- a qualified Redeemer must be identified
- the accepted Redeemer-Substitute must be sent
- a perfect Substitute life must be lived
- wrath must be propitiated
- justice must be exacted
- transgression must be forgiven
- sin must be covered
- death must be conquered
- regeneration must be effected
- righteousness must be imputed
- the perfected High Priest must be installed
- reconciliation must be realized
- relationship must be established
- sanctification must be perfected
- saints must be glorified
- the glorified King must be enthroned