

WHY DON'T I JOIN THEM: ASSUMING HUMAN NATURE

SERMON OUTLINE

Introduction: The subject of the *Logos* assuming human nature in John 1:1-18 seems to have four movements of roughly equal length. 1) In vv. 1-5, we read of a *cosmological* concern. 2) In vv. 6-8, John concentrates on *the Witness of John the Baptist*. 3) In vv. 9-13, the *Coming of the Light* comes to the focus. 4) Finally, in vv. 14-18, John considers *the Economy of Salvation*.

1. The second person of the Trinity, the Son, became man as Jesus or assumed human nature as Jesus.

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the *Logos*, and the *Logos* was with God, and the *Logos* was God.

2 Sam 7:14 - I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.

Psalm 2:7 - I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

Gen 1:26 & 2:7 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness". ... then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

- Besides John 1:1-18, other early poetic attempts to express language about God and Jesus together are Philippians 2:6-11; Colossians 1:15-20; and Hebrews 1:5-14.

2. Christ is one person with two natures. (the addition)

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the *Logos*, and the *Logos* was with God, and the *Logos* was God.

John 1:14 - And the *Logos* became flesh (assuming the human body) and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 5:40 - yet you refuse to **come to me** that you may have life.

John 7:37 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him **come to me** and drink. (See also John 6:37, 44, 65)

Matt 11:28 - **Come to me**, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Luke 2:52 - And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

- I. I. Packer, our ACNA theologian emeritus, in his spiritual classic, *Knowing God* (54), wrote, "Here are two mysteries for the price of one – the plurality of persons within the unity of God, and the union of Godhead and manhood in the person of Jesus. ... Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as is this truth of the Incarnation. This is the real stumbling-block in Christianity. It is here that Jews, Moslems, Unitarians, Jehovah's Witnesses, and many of those who feel the difficulties above-mentioned (about the virgin birth, the miracles, the atonement, and the resurrection), have come to grief. It is from misbelief, or at least inadequate belief, about the incarnation that difficulties at other points in the gospel story usually spring. But once the incarnation is grasped as a reality, these other difficulties dissolve."

3. The Son descends from heaven to our level, and ascends back to heaven bringing us up with him to the divine level.

- God's goal for every human is union with God. In union, we need two wills to come together – ours and God's.
- There are two paths of life among human beings, one leading to union with God, and another leading to separation from God (Irenaeus).
- If we want to be in union with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we must continually turn from our old sinful ways.

Let us go forth to experience and share the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Here's some direction ...

- God loves us very much, unconditionally and eternally, and wants union with us which is the very best He can give us. *The Word became flesh* tells us that God is intent on communicating with us not about mere concepts; he is intent on communicating about himself.
 - How specifically are you experiencing the love of God in your life?
 - Are you sharing that same received love with other people both inside and outside the Church? If so, who?
- The great irony of Christian theology is that the very medicine that can cure the human condition is rejected. People love the darkness rather than the light because their deeds are evil (John 3:19). Sin is not a series of bad choices, but a state of being from which bad choices continually come.
 - Pray explicitly, boldly, and faithfully each day for yourself regarding some resentment, fear, or other moral defect that keeps you from engaging more fully in God's plan of salvation.
 - Admit you are helpless and need the Lord's powerful help. If you need to talk with someone, seek a trusted friend.
 - Pray in the same way for someone who is living in darkness and share the gospel with them. If necessary, use words.
- Transformation and hope cannot be the fruit of some human endeavor. Only God can take the initiative, and women and men must see, receive, and believe the work God desires to do in us.
 - Let go and let God. If you have a couch potato approach to growth in Christ's holiness, fess up. Seek his changing grace.