

THE SECOND PERSON OF THE GODHEAD

PREVENTING ERROR CONCERNING THE PERSON OF JESUS

"... no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him."

~ Luke 10:22

1. Failing to Distinguish the 2nd Person in the Godhead

- a. Bible: 1) there is one God; 2) three are equally God; 3) three are distinct in person.
 - i. *What happens if we fail to see personal distinctions in the one God?*
- b. The hiccup with the three in one, is counting to two. The 2nd person: John 6:68-69
 - i. *Who is Jesus? Is Jesus Lord? Is Jesus God? Son of God? Was he eternal?*
- c. How important is recognizing personal distinction? Turns out extremely.
 - i. John 17:3 - "this is life eternal... " ... "the only true God, and Jesus Christ"
 - ii. 2 John 1:9 - "Whosoever... abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God."
- d. Failing to discern persons in God will result in denying God manifest in the flesh.

2. The Oneness God

- a. Unitarians believe God is one (one person, one nature), but often Jesus is not God.
- b. Oneness (Monarchianism, Modalism, Sabellianism, UPCI) = God is one and Jesus is God
- c. The latter seems "safer" by affirming Jesus' deity, but there is the subtle confusion.
- d. Their teaching: Father is the Son, the Son is the Spirit. There is no personal distinction.
 - i. God the Father became the Son, then the Son became the Spirit.
 - ii. The three are not three simultaneously, but sequentially.
 - iii. The three are not eternal. They are manifest temporally.
 - iv. The three are modes of existence (faces, masks, roles, aspects).
 - v. The three are not distinct persons, so they don't personally relate to each other.
- e. Their explanation of Jesus interaction with 'God' is between two natures: Mat 26:39, 42
- f. Oneness emphasizes the one-ness of God, but will divide the natures of Jesus too much

3. Two Natures of Jesus

- a. The doctrine of two natures in one Jesus has been called the Hypostatic Union.
 - i. Jesus is God, and man. He has two natures. They are united in one person.
 - ii. Jesus has all the attributes of God and man. All can be attributed to one person.
- b. The Bible teaches one God, the three in one. And that Jesus is one.
- c. Jesus is God – Titus 2:13. Jesus is man – 1 Tim 2:5. He is one - 1 Cor 8:6, Eph 4:5.
- d. If Jesus is both God and man, then there is a big problem if you deny the three in one.

4. Confusing Person with Nature

- a. The error is confusing natures with persons. e.g. one God, one nature, ∴ one person.
 - i. They wrongly conclude: three in one say three persons, ∴ there are three gods.
 - ii. If true, and Jesus has two natures ∴ there are two persons of Jesus ← ERROR
- b. How many persons is God? One. (Unitarian) Is Jesus God? Yes. (Modalist)
 - i. How many persons is Jesus? **One**. Is it a divine person or human person?
 - ii. If divine, then who is speaking to the Father? If human, then Jesus is not God.
 - iii. How many persons is Jesus? **Two**. Which Jesus is not God? The one in the flesh.

- c. Luke 10:21-22 – No man knoweth the Father but the Son (who is God revealed).
- d. John 5:23 – Honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. (The Son is God.)
- e. John 11:41 – The Father and Son operating simultaneously.
- f. John 12:30 – “The voice came not because of me...” Father speaks from heaven.
- g. John 14:6 – Jesus is the way, truth, and life (he speaks one person in his flesh as God)
- h. 1 Tim 3:16 - God was manifest in the flesh in the person of Jesus Christ - 1 Tim 3:16
- i. Col 2:9 - Jesus Christ is all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.
- j. If one nature = one person, then there is nothing that makes God in the flesh.
 - i. Either Jesus is two natures with two persons, and one is not God. Or...
 - ii. Jesus is one eternally divine person with two natures, he is God, who became man, the eternal Son of God, the only begotten of the Father.