

Essentials of the Faith

The Living Word and Saving Work of Christ

1. Jesus is the Word made flesh

- a. He is co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit
- b. He is co-equal with the Father and the Spirit
- c. He is co-substantial with the Father and the Spirit
- d. He is distinct from the Father and the Spirit

2. He did not set aside his deity, He added humanity

Gavin Ortlund's grid (Finding the Right Hills to Die On; the case for theological triage)

- 1. (**First** rank doctrines) **Essential** (that which is essential to the gospel itself)
- 2. (**Second** rank doctrines) **Urgent** (to the health and the practice of the church)
- 3. (**Third** rank doctrines) **Important** (but not enough to separate over)
- 4. (**Fourth** rank doctrines) **Unimportant** (unimportant to our gospel witness or ministry collaboration)

Small Group Questions:

- 1.** How is the first chapter of John different from the first chapter of the Synoptic Gospels?
- 2.** How is the opening of John's gospel similar to Genesis? Why do you think John did this?
- 3.** Why does John use the idea of Logos "Word" in reference to the eternal Son?
- 4.** Why are both natures of Christ essential to His ministry?
- 5.** Which of the attributes of God the Son are most difficult for you?
- 6.** What are the implications for us from the Christology presented here?

For Further Study and Reflection:

- *Finding the Right Hills to Die On* by Gavin Ortland
- *Knowledge of the Holy* by AW Tozer
- *Putting Jesus in His Place* by Robert M. Bowman Jr. and J. Ed Komoszewski