

Thinking Deeply

The Incarnation

INTRO: *The incarnation (in+flesh) ranks as one of the most challenging of theological issues. Many have struggled to make sense of the relationship between the divine and human natures of Jesus of Nazareth.*

- I. The Bible teaches that Jesus possessed both a _____ and a _____ nature.** *Jesus demonstrated attributes displayed in humans (hunger, thirst, need for rest, etc.) yet performed acts that only God could (sovereignty over nature, forgive sin, etc.).*

- II. Confusion over how Jesus' two _____ exist in one _____ has led to heresies.** *These include Docetism, Adoptionism (Ebionism), Nestorianism, Eutychianism, Dynamic Incarnationism (Monarchianism), and Kenoticism.*

- III. Believe what the Bible teaches about the _____.** *Three salient points must be understood.*
 - A. The incarnation involves a _____.** *Jesus' two natures are united without confusion, without change, without division, and without separation (Council of Chalcedon; 451 AD).*

 - B. The incarnation was accomplished through _____.** *This "emptying" was **not** a setting aside of **divine** attributes but the addition of a **human** nature (Phil.2:6-7).*

 - C. The incarnation is _____.** *The man "Jesus" did not exist prior to His conception yet continues to exist forever.*