

The incarnational mystery of Christ and life in Him

The Incarnational Mystery of Christ

- Core principle: “God become man for us” - applies to almost every theological point
- Veiling aspect: When God becomes man, we can only see the man, not God directly
 - Messianic secret in Mark’s Gospel - Jesus refused to reveal his divinity
 - Jews couldn’t accept God becoming man due to perceived gulf between Creator and created
 - Used parables to make people think without stating divinity directly
 - Evil spirits recognized him immediately but were silenced

Revelation vs. Physical Seeing

- Even after resurrection, some who saw Jesus bodily still doubted
- Seeing alone insufficient - requires revelation beyond physical perception
- Jesus learned like us: through family, Torah, Law, then Spirit at baptism
- Disciples couldn’t understand until after ascension and receiving the Spirit
- Acts 2: Jesus ascended as man, received Spirit in fullness, then poured out Spirit to fulfill in us what he fulfilled in himself

Unity of God and Man in Christ

- Church councils established: Jesus is real God, real man, one person
- Four key principles: no division, separation, change, or confusion
- Jesus Christ is the only unity of God and man in all creation
- Three defining features of God:
 1. Ultimately personal - can only be known personally
 2. Word - communication and meaning (intimate speaking within God eternally)
 3. Act - dynamic word that accomplishes what it speaks

Living Out Theological Knowledge

- True knowing is moral - must integrate mind, heart, and action
- Focus on Christ rather than rigid concepts (danger of ossification)
- Living in Spirit means letting Christ work in us, not trying to do Christian works
- Parable of sheep and goats: those focused on Christ didn’t know they were doing good works
- Need to heal separation between thinking and doing

Christianity vs. Islam Distinction

- **Question raised:** How does living Word in Christianity differ from Quran as unchangeable word of God?
- Key difference: Christ as living Word vs. written text
- Jesus said “you search scriptures for eternal life, but it is in me”
- Scripture points to Christ rather than being end in itself
- [Discussion appeared to be cut off in transcript]