

Jesus: Fully God and fully man in one person

December 23, 2012

The teaching of Scripture is clear:

that Jesus was truly and fully **man**

and that Jesus was truly and fully **God**

and that he was **one person**
(not two persons in one body)

In first four centuries of the church, people made different attempts to explain how this could be.

Three teachings were eventually rejected as heresies:

1. Apollinarianism (human body, divine mind & spirit)
2. Nestorianism (two persons in one body)
3. Eutychianism (one new nature: more than human, less that divine)

2. Solution to the controversy: Chalcedonian Creed (451 AD)

(Chalcedon: a city near Constantinople, now Istanbul)

Affirmed by Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant churches
ever since

Jesus exists in 2 natures

“without confusion, without change,

without separation, without division,”

“the property of each nature being preserved . . .

in one Person”

THE CHALCEDONIAN CREED

(451 A.D.)

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable soul and body; consubstantial [*homoousios*—“same nature”] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten...

...to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the prophets from the beginning have declared concerning him, and the Lord Jesus Christ himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

All of the class lessons and outlines are posted on the class website <http://www.christianessentialsbc.com>.