

The Deity of Christ (3)

Introduction

- 1. In our first lesson on the Deity of Christ, we covered the doctrine of Calvinism that teaches among other things that "man is born with sin, and has a sinful nature".**
 - A. The false teachers are promoting that Jesus was just a man so they can put man on the same level and say that man "can go without ever sinning, as Jesus did". We know that can't happen (Romans 3:23).**

- 2. Today we are going to discredit any claim that Jesus was "Just an ordinary man".**

Just an Ordinary Man

- 1. Let there be no mistake on what those who deny the deity of Christ while He was on earth are saying. Here is a quote directly out of an article which was put in the form of a booklet concerning what they are advocating:**

"Jesus, prior to His birth could adequately be described as equal with God. He divested Himself of the glory, honor, divinity, godhood and became subject to the Father as a man. Whatever qualities and characteristics had been his as divine were foregone. Whatever privileges and powers there might have been were stripped from Him. He was a man."

A. Let's look at some terms:

- 1) Divested: "to strip; to dispossess"**
- 2) Honor: "high regard or great respect"**
- 3) Divinity: "the quality or condition of being divine; a god; deity; a divine power or quality"**
- 4) Godhood: "the state or quality of being a god; divinity"**
- 5) Qualities: "That which makes something what it is"**
- 6) Characteristics: "distinctive; a distinguishing trait, feature, or quality"**
- 7) Privileges: "a special right, advantage, favor, etc. granted to some person or group"**
- 8) Powers: "ability to do; capacity to act; authority"**

(Power)**Matthew 28:17-18**

- a) If Jesus did not have "all power" was He a liar? If He was a liar, then He sinned. We know Jesus did not sin, therefore, He did not lie!

B. Their theory is referred to as the "Kenotic Theory"

- 1) Kenotic comes from the Greek for "kenos" which means, "empty or empty handed." It is found in **Philippians 2:5-8**.
 - a) It is ironic that just 6 verses further it says: **Philippians 2:14**
 - b) The American Standard Version replaces the word "humbled" with "emptied".
- 2) The Kenotic Theory can be showed like this:
 - a) SLIDE (Kenotic Theory)

Philippians 2:5-8

1. The Kenotics believe that He gave up everything that made Him God (privileges, prerogatives, power, etc)
2. The Bible teaches:
 - A. That He emptied (humbled) Himself of the spiritual form of Deity and took upon Himself the form of a servant and fashion of as a man. He was still the same person!
Matthew 1:23

B. Philippians 2:5-8 does not say all that this doctrine purports. It does not say He "divested Himself of glory, honor, divinity, godhood". He humbled Himself by taking upon Himself flesh, instead of the glory He had while He was with God.

- 1) Did He empty His power? (Mark 2:1-12 power to forgive sins)**
- 2) Did He empty His Deity? (He accepted worship, an ordinary man could not)**

John 9:38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

- 3) Did He empty Himself of omniscience?**

John 2:25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

- 4) Did He empty Himself from being eternal? An eternal spirit cannot be divested!**

C. This verse simply means: He accepted a subservient role in the redemption of man (Hebrews 10:7,9). In heaven Jesus was in the form of God (Form is the appearance, look or likeness of someone). Jesus simply laid aside the glory as He appeared to be God in heaven.

- 1) He did not empty Himself of Deity, He emptied himself of the display of His Deity for personal gain!**

Hebrews 4:15

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- 1. Kenotics: Conclude that in being made "just like us" and being tempted "just like us", Jesus had to think, feel, and experience everything "just like us."**
 - A. They say that He had to get a "human spirit" to be like us.**

- 2. The Bible teaches:**
 - A. When He experienced temptations and was able to feel our infirmities, it does not mean He has not known from the beginning what our condition is like.**
 - 1) By what He did, He proved to us that He understands and cares about what we go through. It does not prove that He gave up Deity to be tempted as a man.**

The Temptation of Jesus

1. Kenotics teach that "God cannot be tempted" (James 1:13)

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

A. Since Jesus was tempted, they say that Jesus was not God.

1) That He therefore was NOT Deity!

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

B. They should say: Jesus while on earth was God:

1) Jesus on earth in the flesh was tempted (Heb 4:15).

2) Therefore, God in the flesh can be tempted when He was both man and God.

2. What about the temptation of Matthew 4:1-11?

- A. The very first temptation asks Jesus to do something that no man could ever do! Would you be tempted to turn stones into bread? "He was just an ordinary guy" --- sure He was!**
- 1) They claim He could not do it because He was not Deity but could have called on the Holy Spirit. That's good, now He can call the Holy Spirit to sin for Him.**
 - 2) They say that Jesus did not even know He was God. "If" you are the Son of God"!**
 - a) The Devil knew - and He knew!**
- B. Remember: "for in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9).**
- C. T. Doy Moyer wrote concerning the temptation of Christ:**
"Jesus possessed Deity, and at any time He desired He could have called upon the power He possessed to overcome the weaknesses of the physical body. Herein were the temptations. Would Christ go about His mission in such a way as to nullify His reasons for coming in the flesh? He was determined to be a servant, to live here like a man among men, so that He could save them. Really, this makes His temptations even more profound because He refused to call upon the power He possessed. He came to do the will of the Father, not of Himself (Hebrews 10:5-9; John 5:30). He was denying Himself and going about His mission in the way He knew would save us."

Conclusion

1. **Jesus was not "just an ordinary guy" while He was on earth.**
2. **There will always be those that will not confess the fullness of Jesus Christ.**

1 John 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

3. **There will always be heresies that will spring up in the Lord's church.**

1 Corinthians 11:19 For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.

4. **Let us be on guard for those who may come and teach a doctrine that is not according to God's Inspired Word (Galatians 1:6-9).**
5. **I don't understand all things such as miracles, creation, etc.**
6. **There are some things that we must simply have faith in.**

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

