

# Lesson 4: The Church's Response to Allegory: Hermeneutics & The Papacy



# John 1:1-5, 14

- Who is Jesus?
- Is Jesus God?
- Is Jesus a man?
- What does it mean that the Word “became flesh and dwelt among us”?

# Philippians 2:5-11

- In what way did Jesus exist in the form of God?
- What did Jesus empty Himself of?
- Why was Jesus found in the “appearance” of a man?

# Two Schools of Thought

- Alexandria
  - Figurative Interpretation of the text
- Antioch
  - Literal Interpretation of the text



# The Question of Christ's Nature

- Antioch - Christ has two nature
  - A human nature
    - Hunger
    - Fatigue
  - A divine nature
    - Command over creation
    - Ability to read thoughts
- Alexandria - Emphasis upon Christ's divine nature
  - Emphasis upon the divine nature to the practical exclusion of the human nature

# The Build up

- **Apollinarius - An Alexandrian theologian**
  - Personal friend of Athanasius & fellow opponent of Arianism
  - Bishop of Laodicea (361)
  - Got into trouble (mid 370's) for teaching that Christ did not possess a human mind or spirit
- **Council of Constantinople (381)**
  - Condemned Apollinarius' teachings
  - Christ is the savior of humanity and thus needed to be a human

# The Storm

- Division between theologians from Antioch and Alexandria
  - The “Patriarch” of Constantinople (Nestorius) has been traditionally from the Antiochene school
  - Distrusted by the Alexandrian theologians (Cyril)
  - The “Mother of God” debate (Nestorius vs. Cyril)

# Council of Ephesus (431)

- Called by the Eastern Emperor Theodosius II
  - Proceedings began before Nestorius' supporters arrived
  - Nestorius was replaced and exiled
  - Both sides forced to sign a "Formula of Union"
  - Neither side happy



# 2nd Council of Ephesus (449)

- Antioch vs. Alexandria
  - Eutyches - Teaching (in Constantinople) an extreme version of Alexandrian Christology
  - Dioscorus - Patriarch of Alexandria & supporter of Eutyches
  - Flavian - The Patriarch of Constantinople condemned these teachings
- Theodosius called a 2nd Council
  - Controlled by the Alexandrians
  - Used to eliminate any and all positions held by Antiochene theologians
  - Threw out the Formula

# The Aftermath

- Emperor Marcian (450-57)
- “Pope” Leo the Great - Rome
  - Sent a statement to Flavian at the 2nd Council that was not even read
  - Saw it as his duty to support the Antiochene cause
- Moderate Alexandrians
  - Disciples of Cyril who did not take the extreme views Eutyches

# Council of Chalcedon (451)

- Called by Emperor Marcian (goaded by Leo)
- Over 400 bishops present from the Eastern Empire
  - The Formula brought back, but was rejected by Eutyches and his puppet master Dioscorus
  - Leo intervenes
  - The Formula went back to committee

# Definition of Chalcedon

We all, with one voice, confess our Lord Jesus Christ, ONE AND THE SAME SON, at once complete in deity and complete in humanity, truly God and truly man, consisting of a rational soul and body; of the same essence as the Father in His deity, of the same essence as us in His humanity, like us in all things apart from sin; begotten of the Father before all ages regards His deity, THE SAME BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY, THE BIRTH-GIVER OF GOD, as regards His humanity, in the last days, for us and our salvation ONE AND THE SAME CHRIST, SON, LORD, ONLY-BEGOTTEN...

... to be acknowledge in two natures, without confusion, without change, WITHOUT DIVISION, WITHOUT SEPARATION; the distinction of the two natures being in no way abolished because of the union, but rather the characteristic property of each nature being preserved, AND COMING TOGETHER TO FORM ONE PERSON AND ONE HYPOSTASIS. HE IS NOT SPLIT OR DIVIDED INTO TWO PERSONS, BUT HE IS ONE AND THE SAME SON AND ONLY-BEGOTTEN, GOD THE LOGOS, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, as formerly the prophets and later Jesus Christ Himself have taught us about Him, and as it has been handed down to us by the Creed of the Fathers.

# The Papacy

Who was the first “Pope”?



# Early Church Government

- Every city had a gathering of Christians (since Acts)
  - Bishop = The main pastor
  - Presbyters = Elders/pastors within the city
  - Patriarchs = The main voice representing that city
- The churches/cities were autonomous yet sought to be united in doctrine
  - Clearly by the 5th cent. some men were “throwing their weight” around
  - Did some Bishops have more influence than others?

# Leo the Great

- First to see the Bishop of Rome as Peter's successor
- Not afraid to use his "influence" on political & church leaders alike





# Conclusion

- The Church responded to poor hermeneutics by submitting to Scripture
- Some could not submit
  - Unable to separate personal conflict from the authority of God's Word. They were put out of the church
  - When men behave badly, it is due to a lack of submission to Christ and His Word
- When we submit to Scripture...
  - Christ is honored
  - The Church thrives