

WEEK THREE: JESUS, HIS ONLY SON/OUR LORD

Statement...The Creed captures Jesus in a series of verbs: conceived, born, suffered, died, descended, raised, and ascended. It connects his 2 natures-his humanity/divinity-by linking them in phrases “conceived by Holy Spirit, born of Virgin Mary” To grasp who Jesus is, his humanity and his divinity are inseparable.

HE WASN'T PRETENDING...Jesus wasn't pretending to BE HUMAN. He lived the life we live, breathed the same air, truly felt joys/sorrows. He entered all aspects of human life that God might relate to us

Conceived, born, died, buried: he took the journey we take. From conception to death, he was human yet truly more than human.

THE CHOICE HE MADE... Jesus reveals GOD TO US; God doesn't reveal JESUS TO US. Don't just say, “Jesus is God”. Say all of it: that, as God, he chose to be one of us. This is what makes Christianity unique. No other world religion dares to claim that God became human.

WHERE JESUS WENT WRONG...For Jews, their Messiah would be an EARTLY RULER who'd sit on David's throne, liberate Israel from its enemies, and reclaim/purify the Temple. God shows up in Jesus: a helpless babe, not a KING riding in a CHARIOT FROM HEAVEN. He defied their expectations. He took their most sacred symbols-the Law, Sabbath, Holy Land-turned all their meanings upside down. He claimed to have the right to do what only God could do: to forgive sins. By welcoming sinners, he implied that they could be forgiven by being with him, and bypass the rituals of Jewish Temple. His cleansing Temple was “messianic symbol”, a sign of God's judgment.

THE EARLIEST CREED OF ALL...Creed isn't finished. His only Son and our Lord. By the first century, followers were already calling him “LORD”, It was the EARLIEST OF ALL CREEDS: JESUS IS LORD, a vow affirming his total authority, and yet taking that stand put his followers at risk. It sent the clear message that “CAESAR WAS NOT LORD”

SUFFERED UNDER PILATE...the mention of Pilate grounds JESUS as a real person in history and not a FICTIONAL HERO created by the church. It sends a chilling reminder of his suffering- all the gory sights and sounds of Good Friday. Yet God will have the LAST WORD: not Satan, not Pilate, not Sanhedrin, not the angry crowd.