

MTC LITE Spring 2021 – Session 2 –THE PERSON OF CHRIST

Part 1: “Being in Very Nature God”

Why is this worth our time?

- It matters because the Bible says it matters
- It matters because it is contested
- It matters because we love Him
- It matters because beholding Jesus is the start, the middle and the end of the Christian life

How are we going to dive in?

- Taking Philippians 2:5–11 as our starting point
- Examining three key phrases in turn
- Turning to other parts of Scripture to illuminate them
- Mining the riches of the past

What kind of claim is Paul making and why is it so important?

Start by assessing some views of Jesus

“Human-PLUS” views of Christ

- **Ebionism:** Jesus was the strictly human leader of God’s people, but still chosen and inspired.
(something like a Muslim view)
- **Adoptionism:** Jesus was born a normal human, but at some point adopted by God giving him special status and properties.
(the Spiderman view)

A big problem for these views: **Pre-existence**

- John’s gospel (“In the beginning was the Word”)
- “I have come” sayings

The Arian view of Christ

Jesus is the first and supreme created being, in closest relationship to God but not himself God

- Jehovah's Witnesses today
- Arius in the third century

"There once was a time when the Son was not"

The Bible vs. the church?

- Unquestionably these are not the views of the later church

The Nicene Creed:

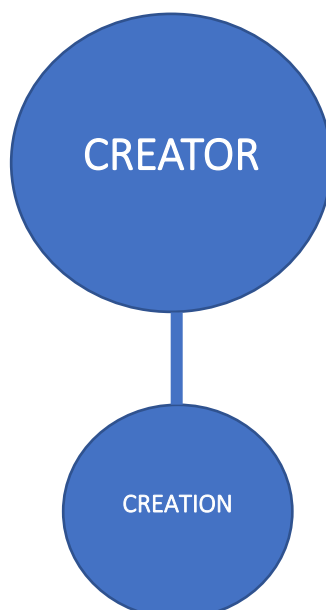
*...God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father.*

- But what did the first Christians think, and what does the Bible say?

A scale of divinity?



Or, (the Biblical picture)



Ask **WHO** not **what**

- “**Who** is this that the wind and the waves obey him?” Mark 4:41
- John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word and the word was with God and the word was God.”
- Matthew 28:17 “Then they worshipped him.”
- Romans 10:13 and Joel 2:32
- Revelation 1
- 1 Corinthians 8:6 and Deuteronomy 6:4

“In very nature God”

We believe in...
...one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all worlds,
Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father

Again, why so important?

- It's a matter of right worship
- It's a matter of whether Jesus truly shows us God or not

Wonderfully, there is no God hidden behind the back of Jesus Christ!