

Foundations of Orthodoxy Handout

The Nature of God

- God is one Being eternally manifest in three Persons (the Trinity).
 - “In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).
 - “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God (Elohim), the Lord is one!” (Deuteronomy 6:4).
- The Father is God
 - “Grace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 1:7).
- The Son is God
 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:1,14).
- The Holy Spirit is God
 - “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...You have not lied to men but to God’” (Acts 5:3-4).



The Nature of Christ

Overview:

- Jesus Christ is fully God and fully Man.
- “Jesus” is His human name and translates from the OT name “Joshua” meaning “the Lord saves.”
- “Christ” is from the Greek “Christos” and means “Messiah.”
- Jesus Christ is fully God.
 - “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am” (John 8:58).
- Jesus Christ is fully Man.
 - “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life” (1 John 1:1).

Titles:

- Son of God—emphasizes His deity.
 - “For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.” (John 5:18).
- Son of Man—emphasizes both humanity and deity with a particular emphasis on deity.
 - Daniel 7:13-14
 - Mark 2:7, 10
- Son of David—emphasizes His humanity.
 - “The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham” (Matthew 1:1).
- Summary—Jesus Christ is fully God and fully Man with two natures in one person.

Antichrist:

- The denial of Jesus Christ in either His humanity or deity is the spirit of antichrist.
 - 1 John 3:23, 4:1-3
- “Antichrist” comes from the Greek words *anti* meaning “instead of” and *christos* meaning “Christ.”
- Antichrist is “one who assuming the guise of Christ opposes Christ” (G. Abbott-Smith, A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament, s.v. *antichristos*).

Other:

- He was virgin-born.
 - “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which translated means, ‘God with us’” (Matthew 1:23).
- He was sinless.
 - “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- He died physically.
 - 30“Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit...34But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out” (John 19:30, 34)
- He rose bodily.
 - “See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have” (Luke 24:39).

The Nature of Man

- All men are equally created in the image of God.
 - Genesis 1:26-27
- All men are equally fallen and in need of a Savior.
 - Romans 3:10-12, 23
- Salvation is solely of God and not at all of man. Salvation is the free gift of God that comes by faith alone in Jesus Christ.
 - 1“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you...3that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4).
 - “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6).

The Nature of the Gospel

- Salvation is solely of God and not at all of man. Salvation is the free gift of God that comes by faith alone in Jesus Christ.
 - “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).
 - 8“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9not as a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).