



TRAINING TRACK

PART ONE:

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



Westlake Church Lausanne
Rooted in the Gospel & Radical Transformation

Section Five

Christ

Memory Verse

*“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

Isaiah 9:6

Key Texts

Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, (IVP: 2007 Edition), Chapter 26.

The Chalcedonian Definition

Athanasius, On the Incarnation

1. The Humanity of Christ

The Virgin Birth

Read Grudem 529-532

What is the biblical evidence for the virgin birth?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

What three reasons does Grudem give for the doctrinal importance of the virgin birth?

1.....
.....

2.....
.....

3.....
.....

Human Weaknesses and Limitations

Read Grudem 532-535

a. A Human Body

What is the biblical evidence for Jesus having a fully human body?

.....
.....
.....

b. A Human Mind, Soul and Emotions

What is the biblical evidence for these?

.....
.....
.....

In one sentence, how would you summarize the evidence for the humanity of Jesus?

.....
.....

The Sinlessness of Jesus

Read Grudem 535-7

Grudem states: "Jesus was different in one important respect: he was without sin." What is the evidence from the Bible that supports this assertion?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

In what ways can Christ's sinlessness in the face of temptation help us?

.....
.....

.....
.....
.....
.....

The necessity of Jesus' full humanity

Read Grudem 540-2

What is *docetism*?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Grudem gives 7 reasons why it was necessary for Christ to be fully man, what are they?

1.....
.....

2.....
.....

3.....
.....

4.....
.....

5.....
.....

6.....
.....

7.....
.....

2. The Deity of Christ

Read Grudem 543-549

Write out in full the following verses that describe Jesus as God:

John1:1:

.....
.....

John 1:18:

.....
.....

John 20:28:

.....
.....

Romans 9:5:

.....
.....

Titus 2:13:

.....
.....

Hebrews 1:8:

.....
.....

2 Peter 1:1:

.....
.....

Isaiah 9:6:

.....
.....

Why is an understanding of how the word *kyrios* (Lord) is used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament (The Septuagint) helpful to us in understanding how the New Testament speaks of Jesus?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Read John 8:48-59

Why is Jesus' use of the phrase "I am" (v58) so provocative?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Compare Revelation 1:8 and 22:13. What do these verses tell us about Jesus?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Read the following verses. Which divine characteristics does Jesus demonstrate in each:

John 2:1-11; Matt 8:26-7:

.....
.....

John 8:58:

.....
.....

Mark 2:8; John 6:64

.....
.....

Mark 2:5-7; Matt 11:25-7:

.....
.....

3. The Incarnation

Read Grudem 553-6

Grudem describes three views regarding the incarnation that came to be viewed as heretical. Briefly describe each position and why it was/is viewed as wrong:

Apollinarianism:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Nestorianism:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Monophysitism:

.....
.....

.....
.....
Read Grudem 556-8

The Chalcedonian Definition (AD 451)

The Chalcedonian definition has provided ‘the orthodox definition of the biblical teaching on the person of Christ’ for each of the three main branches of Christianity.

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach people to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable [rational] soul and body; consubstantial [co-essential] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten God, the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have declared] concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

How does the Chalcedonian Definition answer the three heretical positions noted above?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Optional Extra!: Athanasius On the Incarnation

On the Incarnation is a classic, and will reward your taking the time to read it.

Read Chapter 1: Creation and the Fall

Considering point 1, p7, what reason does Athanasius give for the Word being ‘manifested in a human body’?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

From point 4, p8-9, summarise the reasons Athanasius gives that ‘caused the Word to come down’ and ‘called out His love for us’.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Read Chapter 2: The Divine Dilemma and Its Solution in the Incarnation

From point 7, p10, what is the problem humanity faced following the Fall, and what reason/s does Athanasius give for the Word being the solution?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

From point 8, p10-11, what reasons does Athanasius give that Christ ‘surrendered His body to death’?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Read Chapter 3: The Divine Dilemma and Its Solution in the Incarnation – continued

From point 13, p14, summarise Athanasius’ argument here as to why the Word – ‘the very Image Himself’ – need to come to humanity.

.....
.....
.....
.....

.....
.....
From point 15, p15, why does Athanasius say the Word of God 'became Himself an object for the senses'? Why was this necessary?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Read Chapter 4: The Death of Christ

From point 20, p18, what does Athanasius say that Christ achieves through His death?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

From point 19, p22, what did the 'the savior come to accomplish'?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

From point 25, p20, why does Athanasius describe Christ's death by the cross as 'the one death that was supremely good'?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Read Chapter 5: The Resurrection

Briefly, how does Athanasius describe the resurrection?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Read Chapter 7: Refutation of the Gentiles

The concept of *Logos* – the Word – was prevalent in Greek thought. It signified the ‘divine power of function by which the universe is given unity, coherence and meaning.’ (J.N. Birdsall, in *Logos*, New Bible Dictionary, IVP, 1996).

Keeping in mind how the surrounding Greek culture viewed the *logos* as the empowering principle of the universe, briefly summarize Athanasius’ argument in points 41-42.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Considering point 43, page 32, why did the Word come in a body as a man?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

In point 45, pages 33-34, what are some of the benefits Athanasius sees in the incarnation?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse

*“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

Isaiah 9:6