

Connect Group Studies



'Bringing God and people together'

March 2010 Study - The 4 faces of Christ

This study will take 2 sessions. Aim: Understanding of the nature of God in Christ. Week 1 Sermons will cover the topic of His Royalty; week 2 His Servanthood; week 3 His Humanity; week 4 His Divinity. Include what has been spoken about in the Sunday Sermons where applicable. Texts in brackets are reference examples only, use in session only if required.

Introduction

Q: What are the 4 faces of Christ?

The 4 faces or the 4 aspects of Christ are His Royalty, Servanthood, Humanity and Divinity. Pete says, "These things all have a place within each of us for a balanced life."

Discover

Let's look at how the Bible shows us these 4 aspects in symbolic form:

Read Ezekiel 1:10

In Ezekiel's vision of Heaven he sees these 4 faces on the cherubim.

But the first reference to these 4 symbols together was in God's instructions to Israel in the wilderness: God told them to camp around the 4 sides of the Tabernacle under banners or standards, each displaying a symbol of 1 of these aspects. (*Numbers 2:2*).

The same 4 are described in Revelation 4:6-7 as the 4 living creatures gathered around the throne.

The revelation of God in Ezekiel 1 is the revelation of Christ (*Ezekiel 1:26*).

Each face (as well as the banners) prophetically symbolized the 4-fold nature of Christ.

Each carried the mark of God's glory as revealed in Jesus Christ:

Man (north) symbolises the Humanity of Jesus Christ

Lion (right, east of Tabernacle) symbolises the Royalty of Jesus Christ

Ox (left, west of Tabernacle) symbolises the Servanthood of Jesus Christ

Eagle (south) symbolises the Divinity of Jesus Christ

The 4 gospels also serve to depict these 4 aspects in their themes:

Matthew - The Gospel of the King

Mark - The Servant who came to save

Luke - The Coming of the Son of Man

John - The Son of God who came to save

Discuss

Q: Thinking about the 3 animals - lion, ox and eagle - What is each of them known for by nature and behaviour?

Think about stories you've read about Jesus.

Q: When was Jesus treated like a king, or when did he act like a king? (*Matthew 2:1-2, Matthew 21:5,8-9*)

Q: When did Jesus act like a servant? (*Mark 1:40-41, Mark 8:2-3*)

Q: When did Jesus leave aside his power and authority and act like an ordinary man? (*Luke 2:51-52; Luke 4:1-4*)

Q: When was Jesus shown to be The Son of God or what did Jesus say that indicated that he was God or The Son of God? (*John 6:48-51, John 20:26-29*)

Relate

Q: Do you relate to God more as your king or more as the one to answer your prayers?

Q: Do you relate to God more as your friend or more as The Most High God?

Apply

1) Applying the 4 faces to God -

As Christians we are to come to know God as being King, Servant, Man and God.

2) Applying the 4 faces to Ourselves -

As bearers of Christ, our lives are to be led by the Spirit.

Read Ezekiel 1:12

We learn to follow whatever role God shows us to take in any situation - sometimes we are to take authority and sometimes we are to serve, sometimes we are to fit into the local culture to relate to people who don't know God, sometimes to be 'set apart' to act as God's representative in a priestly role.

The important thing is not to presume, but to ask for God's leading, and the grace to do it.

Read John 5:19

Share

Q: Have you experienced the Holy Spirit leading you to take different roles at different times?

Q: Is there one role you feel stuck in, in your family, your work place, your church?

(*Galatians 5:1,18*)

Q: Pick one of the 4 faces of Christ. If He only used that one in relation to us, how would your response to God be different?

Summing up

The ancient prophets had foretold that the Messiah would be God and Man, exalted and abased, Master and Servant, Priest and sacrifice, King and subject, mortal and a conqueror of death, rich and poor, Glorious Lord yet a man of griefs, involved in our infirmities, in a state of great humiliation. All these apparent opposites were to be reconciled in the person of Christ.

Read Colossians 1:19-20

Is anything too hard or too wonderful for the Lord? (*Luke 1:37, Genesis 18:14*)