



Encountering Christ

Early Christian Issues

- ✦ What does the resurrection mean?
 - Jesus only, or us as well?
- ✦ Why the crucifixion? What was accomplished?
- ✦ Who was Jesus, anyway?
 - just a man? an apparition?
- ✦ How is Jesus present to us?

Where is Jesus?

- ☛ Ascended
- ☛ Seated at the right hand of the Father
- ☛ Present “with” the Word as agent of God’s ongoing creation.
 - Col. 1: 15-20
- ☛ A human being in the Godhead.
 - Heb. 9: 24

Jesus Christ: God-Incarnate

- The divine Word is the principle of life for the human soul of Christ.
- Body, psyche and human spirit still have their own realms of lawfulness. Jesus is truly human with a created human soul, reason, intellect, emotions, imagination, etc. His divinity does not “over-ride” his humanity.
- Jesus’ body, psyche and spirit are “en-Spirited” and exist “for the divine.”

Community



- ✦ He is identified with the Christian community.
- ✦ Where two or more are gathered in His name
- ✦ Church as Christ's visible presence
- ✦ Church as center of His ongoing work on earth
- ✦ Christians as "cells" in the Body of Christ

Sacramental



- ✦ Sign that communicates grace
- ✦ Church as first Sacrament of Christ's presence
- ✦ Sacramentals - signs and symbols that facilitate connection
- ✦ Sacraments - touch-points with Christ's life; consecrates, heals, nourishes.

Cosmic Presence



- ✦ God creates through the Word
- ✦ All creation has connection with God through the Word.
- ✦ Jesus is the Incarnate Word and is present to all creation.
- ✦ Creation as "iconic"

Spirituality - the process of developing the life of the human spirit in its openness to ultimate meaning, truth, and goodness.

Christian Faith - openness to and entrusting belief in the providential care and guidance of God as revealed and mediated through the Person of Jesus Christ.

Christian Spirituality - spiritual development in the context of Christian faith.
- explicit reference to Jesus Christ
- intentional practices to cultivate relationship with Jesus through the modes of his presence to us
