

## Diagram #2

# CHRISTOLOGICAL ONENESS

Distinction ← **Dialectic** → Oneness  
Tension and balance

### Deity emphasized

Docetism - from Greek *dokein*, "to appear". Gnostic idea that Jesus only appeared to be human. Marcion said Jesus was just a "phantom."

Absorptionism - Jesus' humanity was absorbed or subsumed into His deity.

Apollinarianism (310-391) - The divine *Logos* replaced the human spirit or soul of Jesus, so He was just a human body.

Monophysitism - Jesus had only one nature.

### Humanity emphasized

Ebionites - Jesus just a man who God elected to be Son of God,

Adoptionism - the man Jesus adopted by God, and given Christ-cloak or Messiah-mantle.

Arius (250-336) denied the deity of Jesus, and necessarily posited some form of adoptionism.

Radical kenoticism - explained that Jesus "emptied Himself" of deity.

### Deity and humanity

**Deity** - Jn. 1:1; 5:18; Phil. 2:6; Col. 2:9; Titus 2:13;  
I John 5:20

**Humanity** - Acts 2:22; Rom. 5:15; I Cor. 15:21;  
Phil. 2:7,8; I Tim. 2:5

### Incarnation - "God in the flesh"

"The Word became flesh" - Jn. 1:14  
Cf. Rom. 8:3; I Tim. 3:16; Heb. 2:14; I Jn. 1:2

**One Lord** - I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:5

**One Man** - Rom. 5:5

**One Mediator** - I Tim. 2:5

### God-man

Greek word *Theanthropos*

## Ontological Christology

### What are the two?

Substances, essences, beings, natures?

Council of Chalcedon (451) established orthodox explanation as "two natures".

### Indissoluble Distinction

"Fully God and fully man"

### What is the one?

Being, person, individual?

Council of Chalcedon (451) determined that Jesus was one *hypostasis*, meaning "particular individual." Thereafter the union of deity and humanity in Jesus has been referred to as an "hypostatic union."

### Indivisible Unity

*Communicatio idiomatum* - properties of both deity and humanity attributed in full to one person interchangeably.

## Operational Christology

### What did Jesus "empty" Himself of?

Phil. 2:7 - "emptied Himself" - Greek *kenosis*  
Deity? Omni-attributes? Glory?  
Divine prerogative and right to act independently as God?

Divine function: independent, autonomous, Self-generative  
Human function: dependent, derivative, receptive

Temptability, suffering, mortality experience by humanity.  
cf. John 5:19,20; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10,24; Acts 2:22

### Teleological objective

"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself"  
(II Cor. 5:19)

### Nestorius - (380-451)

Jesus was both divine and human - two persons adjoined in one body. This makes Jesus a schizoid double-being.

### Eutychianism - (378-454)

Deity and humanity become one compound nature - synthesized, homogenized, merged, intermixed, amalgamated, con-fused. Creates a conglomerate or a hybrid.