

## At+One: Introduction & Incarnation

1. Open with prayer: *God of the manger, open our eyes, hearts, and minds to hear how salvation came down to earth in your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*
2. Are you saved? If so, how? When?
3. What is atonement? How is it accomplished?
4. When did atonement occur?
  - a. **Incarnation**
  - b. Life & Ministry
  - c. Crucifixion & Death
  - d. Resurrection
5. Read 1 John 2:1-2. What is the result of atonement?
6. **Incarnational Atonement**
  - a. God conquers sin and reconciles us by becoming flesh – by Jesus being fully human, fully divine – the Incarnation.
  - b. “And His name shall be Emmanuel – God-with-us!”
  - c. We are saved because God reunites humanity and God at the birth of Jesus.
  - d. Athanasius’s king example.
  - e. Read Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:25-32; John 1:1-14. What do you notice about the moment of Incarnation? What does it mean to you that God became flesh? What does it mean for the world? Was Jesus always human?
7. **Recapitulation Theory (Eastern Orthodox)**
  - a. Jesus reconciles us with humanity by becoming the second Adam – by “recapping” humanity without sin.
  - b. “Christ succeeds where Adam failed.”
  - c. We are saved because Jesus redeems humanity by uniting God and humanity in His very being.
  - d. Read 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Romans 5:12-21; Colossians 1:15. How does Jesus “re-do” what happened in the Garden of Eden? How is Jesus the second Adam? Was Jesus “Plan A” from the beginning or “Plan B” after the fall?
8. Where do we see incarnational theology?
  - a. Nicene Creed: “For us and for our **salvation** he came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. . . .” Why do you think the early church phrased it this way? What difference does it make?
  - b. Hymns teach theology:
    - i. Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
    - ii. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
    - iii. Go Tell It on the Mountain (v 3)
    - iv. On This Day Earth shall ring (v 1 & 4)
9. Close in prayer