

The Apostles' Creed



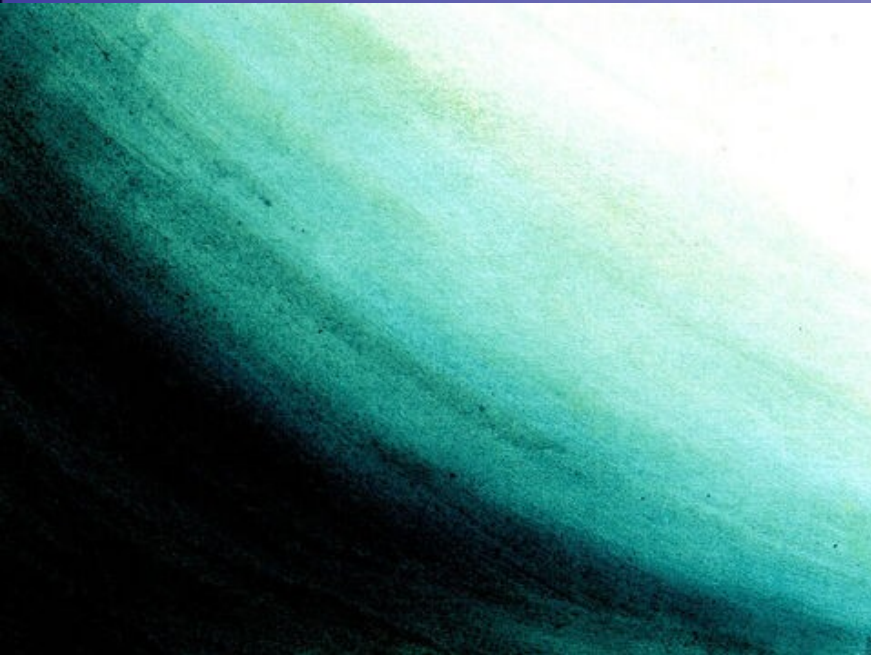
The Apostles' Creed

- *Intro to the Creed Itself*
- *God the Father*
- *God the Son*
 - *Christ's Birth (part 2)*



Christ's Birth

- “We believe in... Jesus Christ... Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary...”
 - On some levels, this part is a fairly easy lesson
 - We want to start with the orthodox view of the Son—that He was fully God and also fully Human at the same time
 - So what did we see last week in John 1:1-14?
 - How—and why—does John purposely link the Incarnation to the initial act of Creation in Genesis 1?

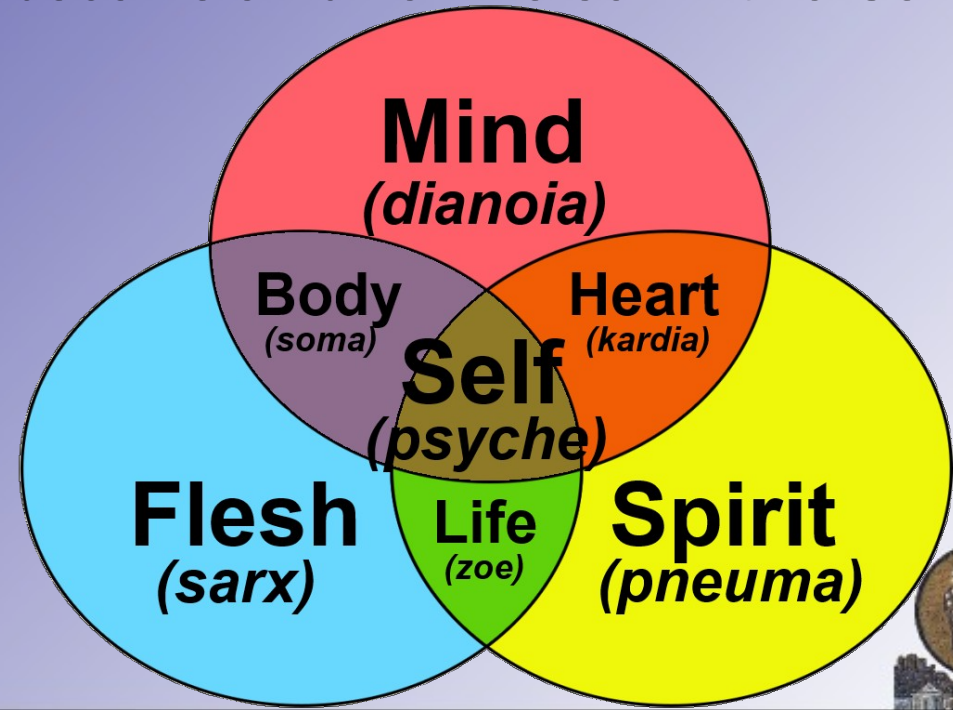
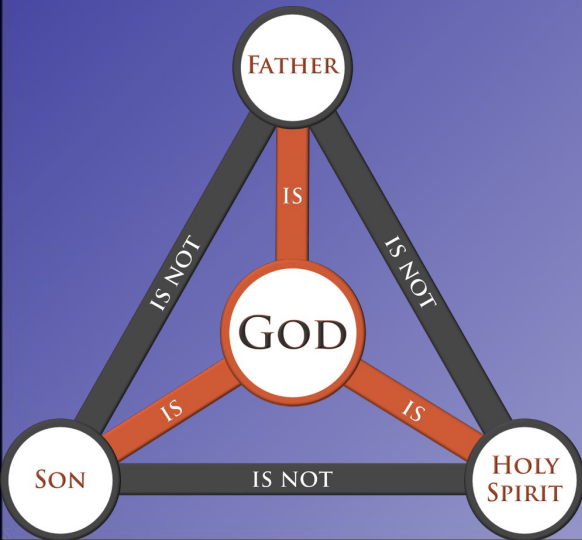


Christ's Birth



Crazy deep dive into background...

- Let's put all this together with what we said several weeks ago about how Greeks saw "persons"
 - Again, think of the Trinity like a Venn diagram
 - To be a "person," you have a mind (will, volition), flesh (materiality), and a spirit (that immaterial "something") —and when those things come together, they create heart (motivational feelings, passions), a body (rather than just a lump of matter), and life (rather than just being some sort of organic soup)
(i.e.; you become a human Person with a Self)

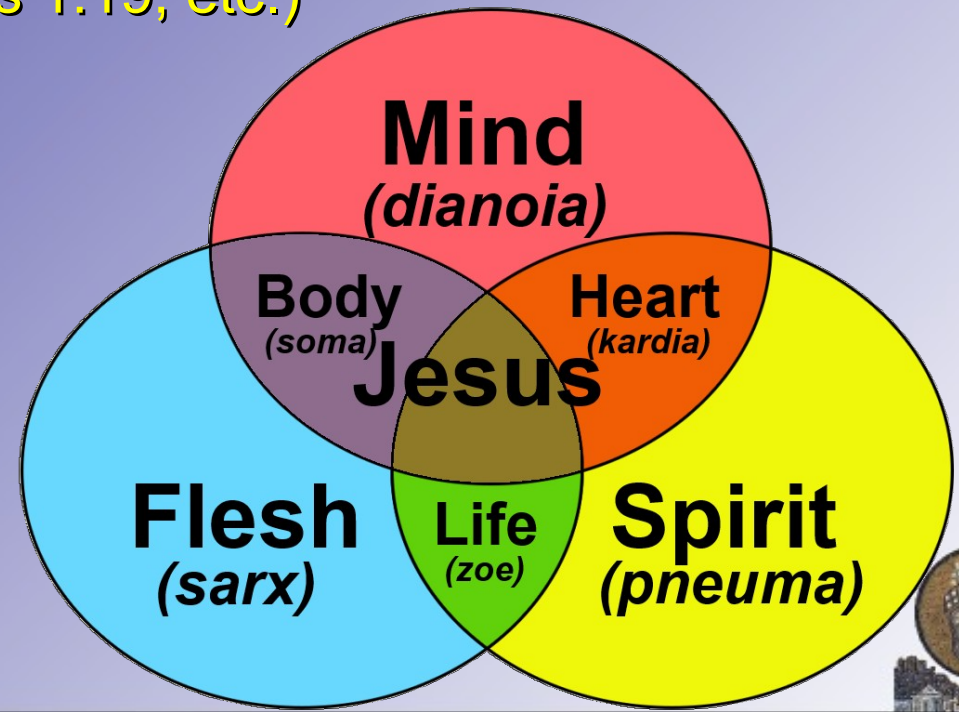
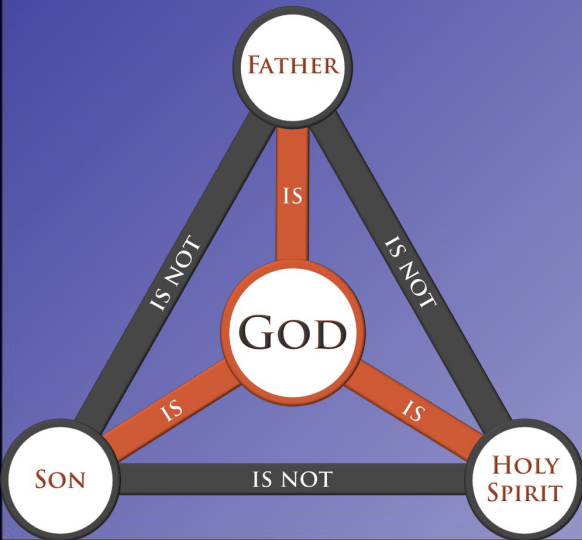


Christ's Birth



Crazy deep dive into background...

- Let's put all this together with what we said several weeks ago about how Greeks saw "persons"
 - Again, think of the Trinity like a Venn diagram
 - The Incarnation—Jesus Christ living with us as fully God and fully Human—was thus the perfect (and "perfected") example of all of that in practice
(God's mind and God's Spirit taking on sinless flesh)
(we can see that Mind in verses like John 5:19 or John 6:38, or that Spirit in verses like Romans 8:9 or Philippians 1:19, etc.)

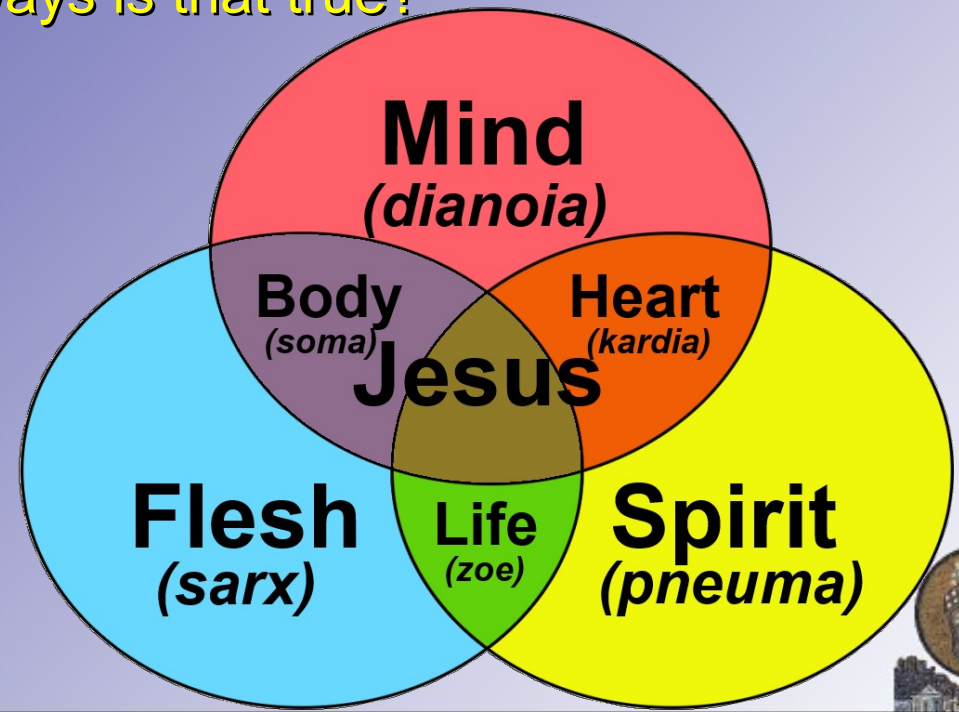
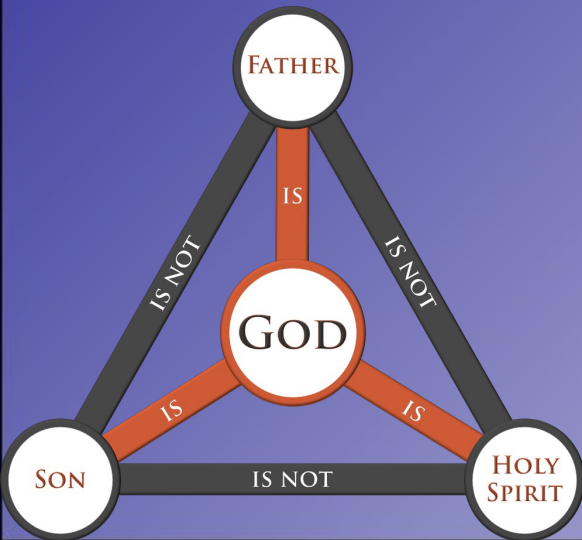


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 - (NOTE: That "life" ["ζωή" or "zōē"] is the same word used in John 1:4)
 - How many ways is that true?

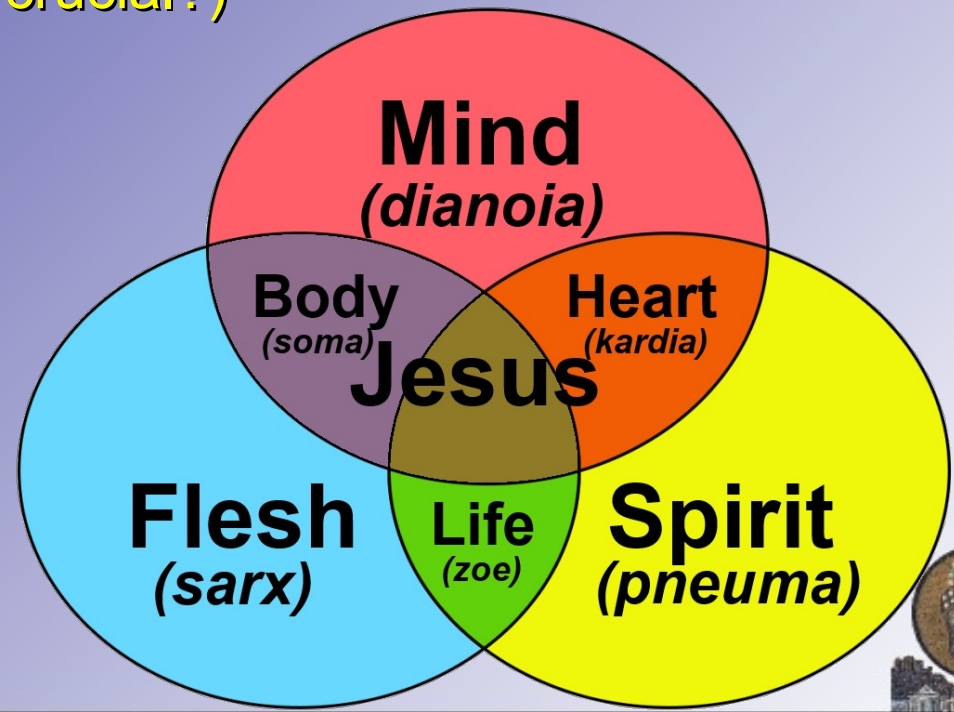


Christ's Birth



Funky little teaching moment...

- Rather than start with the synoptic Gospels, let's take a step back and start with John's Gospel
- **Now let's go to the synoptic Gospels**
 - With all this in mind, please read Luke 1:26-33
 - Given everything we just said about Christology, what do we see going on in these verses?
(for instance, how does this relate to sections like Colossians 1:15-22?)
(why was Christ's *physical* body and *physical* death so crucial?)

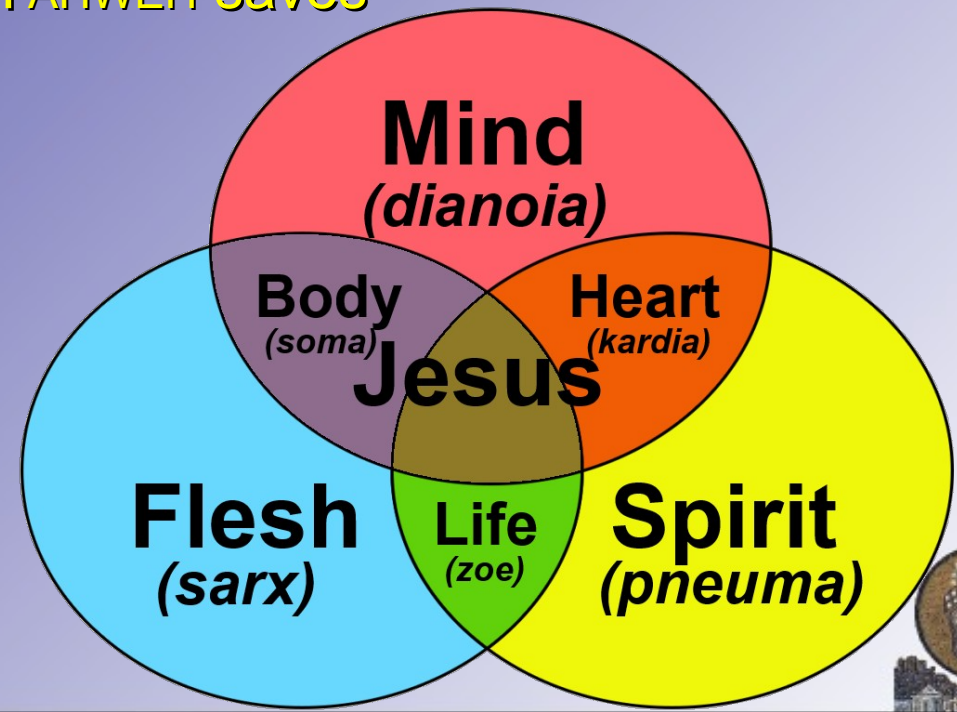


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 - **With all this in mind, please read Luke 1:26-33**
 - Given everything we just said about Christology, what do we see going on in these verses?
 - **Why were they told to give the child the name Jesus?**
 - It's from the Greek "Ἰησοῦς" or "Iēsous," translating the Hebrew "יהושוע" or "Yēhōšûa'" or "Joshua" —meaning "YAHWEH saves"

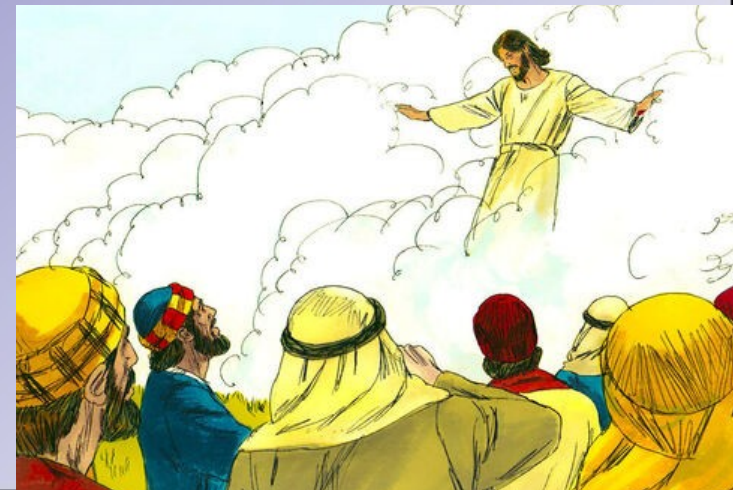


Christ's Birth



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- **Now let's go to the synoptic Gospels**
 - With all this in mind, please read Luke 1:26-33
 - Please read Luke 1:34-37
 - What was Mary's understandable concern here?
 - What was Gabriel's theological reply here?
 - "The Holy Spirit will **come upon you**"
(*"ἐπερχομαι"* or *"eperchomai"*)
 - The same word is also used later on in Acts 1:8-9 (*please read that*)
 - What parallels do you see between the two episodes?



Christ's Birth



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 - What was Mary's understandable concern here?
 - **What was Gabriel's theological reply here?**
 - "The Holy Spirit will come upon you"
 - "The power of the Most High will **overshadow you**" ("ἐπισκιάζω" or "episkiazō")
 - The same word is also used later on in Matthew 17:1-8 (*please read that*)
 - What parallels do you see between *these two moments in Christ's life?*



Christ's Birth



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 - What was Mary's understandable concern here?
 - **What was Gabriel's theological reply here?**
 - "The Holy Spirit will come upon you"
 - "The power of the Most High will overshadow you"
 - **Why would the angel use this sort of language?**
(i.e.; language relevant to two other "cloud" events in Christ's life that will absolutely demonstrate His divinity)



Christ's Birth



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- **Now let's go to the synoptic Gospels**
 - With all this in mind, please read Luke 1:26-33
 - Please read Luke 1:34-37
 - **Please read Matthew 1:18-21**
 - What details in this angelic episode echo the angelic episode with Mary?
 - How does verse 21 expand on why they were told to call the baby "Jesus" (i.e.; "YAHWEH saves")?



Christ's Birth



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 - Please read Luke 1:34-37
 - Please read Matthew 1:18-21
 - **Please read Matthew 1:22-25**
 - Why does the angel quote Isaiah 7:14 here?
 - Note at least two details in that Old Testament verse that are relevant to the birth of Christ—
 - “The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son”
 - Wasn't this sign enough for everyone to be looking for?
 - NOTE: “עַלְמָה” or “*almâ*” could mean either “virgin” or even just a “young woman” (so it was commonly just seen as just a “lead-in” for the rest of the prophecy about this king who would be so great)



Christ's Birth



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 - **“The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son”**
 - Wasn't this sign enough for everyone to be looking for?
 - **NOTE: “עַלְמָה” or “*almâ*” could mean either “virgin” or even just a “young woman” but the Septuagint later “officially” translated the word as “παρθένος” or “*parthenos*”—which absolutely meant “virgin”**



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 - **Why does the angel quote Isaiah 7:14 here?**
 - **Note at least two details in that Old Testament verse that are relevant to the birth of Christ—**
 - “The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son”
 - “They will call him Immanuel” (“עִמָּנוּאֵל” or “*immānû'ēl*”—which even Matthew defines for us as “God with us”)
 - (which was commonly taken by most to mean, “It'll be almost as if God Himself were with us”—though Isaiah calls that His “*name*”)



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 - Please read Matthew 1:18-21
 - **Please read Matthew 1:22-25**
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 - **Note at least two details in that Old Testament verse that are relevant to the birth of Christ—**
 - **“The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son”**
 - **“They will call him Immanuel”**
 - **So God Himself will be born to a virgin and walk among us as one of us—and you are to call the baby “YAHWEH saves” because He's coming to save His people**



Christ's Birth



Funky little teaching moment...

- Rather than start with the synoptic Gospels, let's take a step back and start with John's Gospel
- Now let's go to the synoptic Gospels
- Put that all together
 - What does it mean that we believe that Jesus “was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary” in this context?



- How would you summarize the Biblical teaching to someone with no Biblical background?
 - How does all of this answer the “Jesus wasn't really human” error?
 - How does all of this answer the “Jesus wasn't really Divine” error?
 - How does all of this differ from the *Mormon* understanding of Mary's physical sexual intercourse with God that was expressed last week?
 - Why does *any* of this actually matter to our lives or our faith today?

