God Speaks Through the Incarnation

- 1. Jesus himself is the good news
- 2. Through Christ, we are included in the divine fellowship
- 3. Three syllables of Jesus
 - a. What he taught
 - b. What he did
 - c. Where he is
- 4. The incarnation focuses on what he is
- 5. A journey of descent: toward humility, not perfection
- 6. We are not meant to be like God; we are meant to be human like Christ

7. Eastern religions call for self-emptying resulting in annihilation; Christ calls for self-emptying resulting in incarnation

| Christianity | Western Materialism | Eastern Religions |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Honor God and man | Replace God with man | Deny man completely |
| Self-actualization | Self-seeking | Self-flight |
| Worshiping God | Denying God | Identifying with God |
| Become fully human | Less than human | More than human |

- 8. The incarnation harmonizes the natural and spiritual arenas
- 9. The reason for creation lies in the great dance of life and love shared by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-they want to share their dance with others
- 10. The incarnation is God "earthing" his fellowship
- 11. The incarnation is a permanent reality