

# Three Speeches of God

1. Three major speeches of God to mankind: creation, scripture, and the incarnation
2. Philosophy is human talk about God
3. Theology concerns itself with a word from God
4. Theology deals with what God has said and how we will respond
5. We all have the capacity to hear God
6. We all have the responsibility to respond

## God Speaks: Creation

1. God is in creation, but he is also "Other" than creation
2. Pantheism: God is everything
3. Panentheism: God is in all things
4. Every created thing is a unique expression of God
5. Through creation, God is seeking to enter into dialog with us
6. Eastern religions attempt to climb up to God by turning away from the physical creation
7. Part of our response is honoring the physical creation, including our "embodied" selves

8. Western materialism turns a deaf ear to creation

9. We must come to see the profoundly sacramental nature of creation so that we can live in a "God-bathed" world

10. In my uniqueness and authenticity, I am also a part of the speech of God

11. How do we respond appropriately to God's voice in creation?

a. Ask God to open our eyes and ears to what he is saying

b. Responsible ecology

c. Personal transformation

## God Speaks: 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

<b>Christianity</b>	<b>Western Materialism</b>	<b>Eastern Religions</b>
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 dimensions

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