

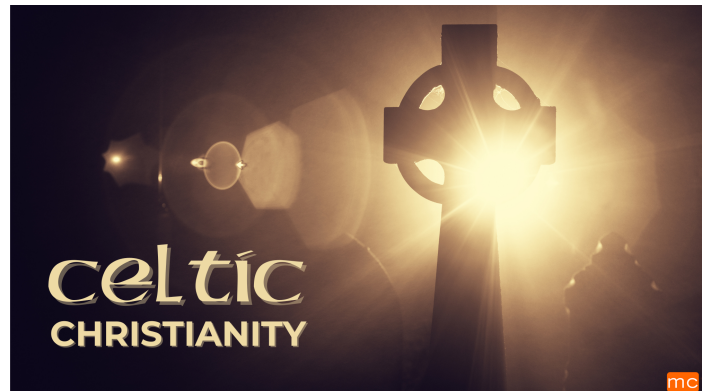
Talk It Over

Questions are prepared each week by the teaching pastor and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used in a group immediately following the talk, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church. They will also be useful to individuals who want a deeper understanding of the message.

LEARNING FROM ERIUGENA

Warm Up

- What has been your biggest takeaway from the two weekends we have spent studying Celtic Christianity?
- How have the past two weekends shaped or challenged your understanding of the Christian faith?



Discuss

1. Celtic Christianity in the period we studied (c. 400 - 900 CE) advanced the following two ideas:
 - a. The goodness of creation.
 - b. The nearness of heaven (“thin spaces”).
2. What is your evaluation of these two concepts?
3. Eriugena suggested that God created from his essence, not from nothing (*ex nihilo*). Thus, all of creation contained the essence of God. What do you think of this idea? Do you know of passages from the Bible that support your position?
4. Do you agree with Eriugena’s proposition that “God walks among us with two shoes,” referring to the revelation of God 1) in scripture and 2) in creation? Why might both “shoes” be necessary for a proper understanding of God?
5. In what ways do we, in present-day, Western Christianity, often separate the material and the spiritual? Is this a helpful differentiation? How did Celtic Christianity, and Eriugena’s teaching in particular, stress the unity between the material and the spiritual? How does an understanding of this unity change the way we view the world?
6. Why do we so frequently view things as “either/or” instead of “both/and”? How does an “either/or” approach help our understanding? How does an “either/or” approach limit our understanding? What is the value and wisdom of trying to see things from the position of “both/and”? Can you think of a present-day example—in the church or in culture—where a “both/and” approach would be helpful?