

Title: JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, SAVIOR, JOHN 14:1-14.
(Chatham, NJ; 05/22/11, AM) [D – Topical, Thematic]

Theme: When Jesus claimed that he was one with the Father, he was revealing not only that he was the Messiah but also that he was of the same nature as the Father; he was God come in the flesh.

Purpose: To remind the church of the teachings about the nature of Christ and to point out the unique things about this doctrine.

Introduction:

1. The early church adopted the fish as a symbol for what they believed; the Greek word for fish was an acronym for Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.
2. John 14 reveals that Jesus is one with the Father and that the disciples haven't fully grasped the connection yet.
3. Jesus' nature was never separated from what he did, 11. "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves."
4. After the Resurrection they wove the information and their experiences into the doctrine that Jesus was fully God and fully human.
5. This doctrine is explained and well-reasoned in many NT passages.

I. Philippians 2:5-11.

A. Who he was.

1. God – the form of God: in the Greek this word "always signifies a form which truly and fully expresses the being which underlies it."
2. The word has meaning only as referring to the reality of God's being; it is correctly understood as the "essential nature and character of God."
3. Furthermore the context even states his "equality with God."
4. He was born human, 7.
5. He also became a servant, 7.

B. What he did.

1. His work as a servant drove him to death on a cross.
2. He humbled himself to this task.
3. The real key here isn't that Jesus suffered more than other humans over the centuries of human conflict; the key is that God had come to suffer and die.
4. God gave his only Son on our behalf. This is love, 1 John 4:10.

C. What is our work?

1. Paul exhorts the church to imitate Jesus' humility, 3: "consider others better than yourselves."
2. He expects them to look to the interests of other, 4, like Jesus did.
3. There is also the implied demand to worship the one who has been exalted, 9.

II. Colossians 1:15-20

A. Who he was/is.

1. Image does not imply that he was merely some ghost or look-alike of God.
2. Paul credits him with creative power over everything. (Only God can do this.)
3. "All things were created through him and for him." (16)
4. The fullness of God (19).
5. He is the head of the church.

B. What he did.

1. He reconciled us to himself, 20 & 22.

2. Made peace with God by the blood, 20.
3. Presents us blameless before God, 22.
4. He is our savior.

C. What we do.

1. We worship him as savior and creator.
2. We remain steadfast in the faith, 23.
3. If we have the “fullness of deity” dwells in Christ (2:9), why go to anyone else?

III. Hebrews 1:1-4

A. Who he was.

1. He is the heir of all things, and God created the universe through him.
2. He is the exact imprint of God's nature.
3. He upholds the universe by his power.
4. Jesus Christ sustains the created order.
5. He is seated at God's right hand.

B. What he did.

1. He has spoken to us.
2. He made purification for sins, 3.
3. He became the high priest of a new covenant.
4. He has entered the presence of God on our behalf.

C. What we do.

1. Fix our eyes on him 12:1-2.
2. Run the race of faith with endurance.
3. Don't grow weary or faint-hearted, 12:3.
4. Remember the unshakable kingdom you are receiving, 12:28, and worship accordingly.

Conclusions:

1. Do you believe that Jesus and the Father are one?
2. Do you believe that he has a place prepared for you?
3. Do you believe that you'll do greater works (built on what he has already done)?
4. Be faithful! Only Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
5. He truly is the Son of God, our Savior.