

JESUS' OBEDIENT EQUALITY

I. JESUS' EQUALITY WITH GOD (v.18)

The central point of the gospel is Jesus' claim to being One with -- the same nature as, identical to -- God the Father. To the religious people this was the greatest heresy imaginable.

Jesus addresses their disbelief by referring to three things only God can do:

A. Work Miracles (v. 19-20)

1. Nathaniel and Nicodemus
2. Signs at the feast in Jerusalem
3. Healings in Cana and at Betheseda

B. Judge the Living and the Dead

1. Changed basis of judgement (3:16-19)
2. Ability to transverse natural and supernatural boundaries (v. 25, 28-29)
3. Everyone will face Him in judgement. (v. 22, 27)

C. Grant Eternal Life (v.21)

1. All life came into being through Jesus. (1:3)
2. Jesus is the very life-essence of God. (1:4, 14, 18; v. 26)
3. Death and life are states of being. (v.24)

II. JESUS: MODEL OF OBEDIENCE

Though Jesus and the Father are One in essence, nature and being, Jesus does nothing on His own. He has no interest in establishing His own personhood; His only goal is to reveal to the people who God really is and what God is really like.