

Series: John

Sermon: 10:30-42

1. Throughout church history there arose a need for definitive statements to be made about the nature of Christ to defend against heresies. Bishops would sign the documents in agreement or not sign them in opposition. Look at the detail of these statements taken from the creeds regarding Jesus.

Nicene Creed: “And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;”

Chalcedonian Creed: “He is of the same essence (*homousios*) as the Father according to his deity, and the same one is of the same essence (*homousios*) with us according to his humanity, like us in all things except sin.”

In what way do the above excerpts help to define Jesus rightly and Biblically?

2. According to Lifeway and Ligonier Ministries’ State of Theology survey 52% of Americans and 30% of professing, church attending, Christians do not believe that Jesus is God. A. How could this be, and what does it reveal about churches and modern Christianity?

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- B. Has the movement for Christianity to become more practical and less doctrinal contributed to the problem?
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3. Arius, the chief false teacher of Jesus being of a different essence than the Father and poet, spread this false theology through catchy jingles that spread like wildfire from his busy port city. His message spread much faster through music than it did in theology classes. What about today, are popular “Christian” songs relied on too much for theology? Explain.
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4. Read Lev. 24:10-16. The name of God was held in high regard in Israel. How common is blasphemy in our country? How common is it for a “professing Christian” to use God’s name in vain (waste) or to blaspheme? How might you confront a professing Christian who misuses the name of God?
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5. The best defense of orthodoxy (right belief) is a people who know the Bible. Why were the Bereans praised in Acts 17:11? _____
What lesson can modern Christians learn from the Bereans?
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