

Theme: Jesus, the Eagle, is the One True God, our Creator and Redeemer, Who became human for us and our salvation.

I. Intro - The Arguments Over Jesus' Deity

- A. Many controversies in the early Church
- B. Jesus is great - but is He really God?
- C. Many want to do the same thing today!
- D. Is Jesus really God? Does it really matter?

II. Eagle - The True God

- A. Jesus the Word is the One True God
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. John 1:1-4
 - 1. The Word (Jesus) was with God and was God (v1)
 - 2. Jesus existed in the beginning - before creation (v2)
 - 3. Jesus is the Creator (v3)
 - 4. Jesus was life and light (v4)
 - 5. This is a clear claim that Jesus is fully and truly God
 - 6. One can not begin to understand Jesus and His Work until it is grasped that Jesus is God Himself. This is the fundamental fact about Jesus - He is One with the One True God.

- B. Jesus is God and became human - while still God!
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14
 - 1. The Word, God, became fully and truly human
 - 2. Yet He did not cease to be God - still full of glory!
 - 3. He did this to reveal God's truth and God's grace to we sinners.

- C. The Eagle is the symbol of Deity
 - 1. It is the creature that is not of earth but of the heavens
 - 2. The other creatures often had wings to depict their heavenly nature
 - 3. The eagle is entirely of heaven - representing Deity

III. Why Jesus Must Be God

- A. Catechism Q24 - Why must the Redeemer be truly, fully God?
The Redeemer must be truly, fully God so that His obedience and suffering would be of infinite value, He would be able to bear the full wrath of God against sin, and overcome Satan and death.
 - 1. The Redeemer had to be God
 - a. So that His obedience and suffering would be of infinite value
 - b. So He could bear the full wrath of God against sin
 - c. So that He could overcome Satan and death

B. So that His obedience and suffering would be of infinite value

No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him — ⁸the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough — ⁹that he should live on forever and not see decay. Psalm 49:7–9

1. The price we owe God in obedience and payment for our sin is higher than any human can pay
2. Only God can rescue us from the disaster we have brought upon ourselves - and He has done this in Jesus!

C. So He could bear the full wrath of God against sin

1. Our sin and rebellion deserves ultimate punishment because it is against God the Ultimate Being
2. To crush a bug or mar the doodles of a non-artist is of little consequence, but to crush a human or destroy the Mona Lisa is a heinous crime because of the value of what has been destroyed.
3. This is why our rebellion requires ultimate payment that is beyond the ability of any human to bear. Only One Who is truly and fully God can bear this penalty,

D. So that He could overcome Satan and death

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Hebrews 2:14–15

1. The Redeemer not only had to bear the full wrath of God against our sin, but also overcome Satan and death.
2. No mere human could do this - only One Who is fully Human and fully God could.

But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Acts 2:24

3. To overcome death, the Redeemer had to be stronger than death itself.
4. Because He is fully God, Jesus was able to conquer death itself and offer life to those Who are united to Him by faith.

E. The result: obedience fulfilled, penalty paid, Satan and death conquered

1. The One Who came is not just sweet little baby Jesus - He is God Himself come to do battle for us!
2. His obedience and sacrificial suffering for our sin are of infinite value, but He is Infinite Being itself!
3. He met Satan and death on the field of battle and conquered them!
4. As a result He can offer true life and blessing to all

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do you see why Jesus had to be truly, fully God?

1. This is no mere philosophical nicety - if He is not God, sin is not conquered, Satan is not vanquished, death is not defeated.
2. Sweet little baby Jesus can not save - only the God Man coming to bear sin and defeat our enemies can save us.
3. This is the true story of Christmas - God has come to save us from our self-made disaster.

- B. Do you trust in Jesus, the God-Man Who has come to save us?
1. Knowing the fact and trusting are not the same thing
 2. God calls us to active trusting in Jesus and His work to save us.
 3. Do you acknowledge your need to be saved?
 4. Do you admit that Jesus is the God-Man and thus can save you from your sin?
 5. Are you actively trusting Him to save you from your sin?

C. God's Table of Salvation

1. This Table represents the story of salvation
2. Bread - the Incarnation - God has become Man for us and for our salvation
3. Cup - Jesus has paid for our salvation, and has overcome Satan and death for us
4. Come to God's Table of salvation

Eagle - The True God

John 1:1-5, 14
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2 Peter 3:18

Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, Jesus; Christology; Deity of Christ

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it... ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-5, 14

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18