Introduction: Since Jesus’ birth there have been folks who have worked tirelessly to discredit Jesus Christ. Our scripture today gives us a first-hand look at the religious crowd (the Pharisees) and their jealousy of Jesus. They had their own picture of who Messiah was supposed to be and nobody was going to change their mind. By the time Jesus ministry was completed and they realized He was the Son of God their hearts were so hardened their pride would not let them repent, they turned their fury on the Apostles, then the church. Today in the 21st century folks are still trying to prove Jesus was nothing more than a man, some say Jesus was mentally ill, some say He was a prophet, some say Jesus was like Mother Teresa. None of them are willing to accept Him as God the Son, second person of the trinity. Those of us who have not had our hearts darkened by worldly enlightenment and are saved by His amazing Grace know exactly who He is and we are so thankful for call to follow Him and the gift of eternal life. In our text we see the Pharisees as one amazed group of people. They are condemning the Son of God for violating the Sabbath. A day He created for man to rest and even went so far as to insist on man resting. God rested after creation, not because He was tired. God rested as a divine example to you and me to look upon His work and worship Him. But the Pharisees saw only a requirement. Then probably the most shocking event in human history, Jesus claims to be equal with God! While the Pharisees claimed blasphemy I want you to look with me this morning at the most startling claim ever made! Notice with me five things that are found in this passage that proves, like Father like Son.

# The equality of Jesus to God; is in His Person V.v.17-18

God the Father is see in His Son Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ should be seen in His body the Church. 1) Follow the head (Christ). 2) Reject tradition that resembles that of the Pharisees (legalism).

Jesus is the second person of the God-head, God the Son and the Son of God. We cannot accept Him any other way. We are saved by Grace through Faith through the blood of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh!

# The equality of Jesus to God; is in His Works V.v. 19-20

The works of Jesus are not miracles. They are acts of love, we read in verse 20 that the “Father loveth” this in not agapao love it is philieo love, or love of deep feelings warmth and affection.

The love of God towards Jesus is shown to mankind through the love of Jesus on the cross. Joh 15:12-14 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. (13) Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (14) Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. We cannot be saved by works but we are saved to do godly work! You cannot love others without first knowing the love of God!

# The equality of Jesus to God; is in His Power and Sovereignty v. 21

God’s power and sovereignty are known because of His authority over life and death. Likewise the Bible gives us many accounts of Jesus interjecting authority over life and death, temporal and spiritual, Lazarus, the woman at the well, casting out demons, healing the woman with a blood issue, etc… If you are saved today you can give testimony of the Lords personal sovereignty and power over eternal life and death in you! If you are not saved today and you die in that condition you will in hell lift up your voice in testimony of the Lords power and sovereignty in all things.

# The equality of Jesus to God; is in His Judgment v.22

Many Christians do not realize exactly how powerful this verse is. Jesus tells us He has the authority of all Judgment, it has been given to Him by God the Father. In a future day, known only to God there will be a judgment of the living and the dead. Why or how can God pass the act of judgment to Jesus? Their wills are in perfect harmony. Jesus went to the cross to redeem the souls of man, in doing so He was resurrected on the third day, and then after 40 days He ascended to heaven where He is today at Gods right hand forever making intercession for the saved. You will stand before Jesus Christ, either as someone that is saved or someone that is not, where are you today? Jesus knows everything there is to know about you! The good, the bad and the ugly. Does He see in you unconfessed sin or repentance that leads to godly service?

# The equality of Jesus to God: is in His Honor V.v.23-24

We read in these verses an affirmation from Jesus Himself that we cannot honor God without also honoring Jesus. If you honor (worship) one you will be honoring both. Notice with me four words that I believe are key to verse 24. Heareth, believeth, everlasting and condemnation; We must hear the words of Jesus not only with our ears but with our heart, we must believe God and know that He has sent the messiah He has promised, by hearing with our heart and believing with our heart we can confess our sin and experience everlasting life, by doing so we can avoid condemnation (judgement). God comes with Jesus and Jesus comes with God and with both of them come the Holy Spirit. The triune God – head. Why are you here today? Sincerity to God or simple selfishness!

Conclusion: The person, works, power, sovereignty, judgment and honor are all characteristics that are shared by the Lord and God the Father. Today the intellectual’s, and elitist’s both secular and religious continue to try to mount and argument that Jesus may have been real but really wasn’t God (Hawkins, Maher, J.W., Roman Catholic, Mormon, Occultist, Muslim). Sadly there are church leaders who have fallen in line with this and over the course of the last few centuries have convinced multitudes Jesus is one choice of many. I can tell you truthfully, believing this will do nothing more than lead you into a false relationship with Jesus Christ (consequences). As I close this morning will our musicians come and prepare a hymn? If you are saved this morning, may I remind you it is by Grace and through Faith in Jesus Christ, nothing more, nothing less? If you have been told differently you have been told wrong. I am prepared to take Gods word and prove it to you. If you haven’t accepted Jesus as savior you’re being called this morning? I believe God is dealing with hearts this morning. Maybe its salvation, maybe its service, maybe its sincerity, maybe something is between you and God or between you and your fellow man. This is an opportunity to right a wrong. As always the doors of the church are open and I am available for counsel if you desire. So as we sing this morning if God is dealing with your heart will you come?