

## 7. Christ the Mediator

### **WCF chapter 8** *Modern Language version – 1993 – OPC*

1. God was pleased, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the mediator between God and man. As the mediator, he is the prophet, priest, and king, the Head and Savior of the church, the heir of all things, and the judge of the world. God gave to him, from all eternity, a people to be his seed and to be by him, in time, redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

2. The Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, being truly and eternally God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time had come, take upon himself man's nature, with all its essential properties and common frailties, yet without sin. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary and of her substance. In this way, two whole natures, the divine and the human, perfect and distinct, were inseparably joined together in one person without being changed, mixed, or confused. This person is truly God and truly man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man.

3. In his human nature, united to the divine nature, the Lord Jesus was set apart and anointed with the Holy Spirit beyond measure, having in him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. In him the Father was pleased to have all fullness dwell, so that—being holy, blameless, and undefiled, full of grace and truth—he might be completely equipped to fulfill the office of a mediator and guarantor. He did not take this office to himself but was called to it by his Father, who put all power and judgment into his hand and commanded him to execute it.

4. This office the Lord Jesus most willingly undertook, & in order to discharge its obligations he was born under the law & perfectly fulfilled it. He endured most grievous torments in his soul & most painful sufferings in his body; he was crucified, died, & was buried; he remained under the power of death, yet his body did not undergo decay; & he arose from the dead on the third day with the same body in which he had suffered. In this body he ascended into heaven, where he sits at the right hand of his Father, making intercession, & he shall return to judge men & angels at the end of the age.

#### **God's gift to us**

God was pleased... John 3:16, 1 Timothy 5:5

Our teacher, sacrifice, ruler & defender

- prophet (Acts 3:22)
- priest (Hebrews 5:5,16)
- king (Psalm 2:6, Luke 1:33)

Head of the church – Eph. 5:23

Heir, judge of all – Acts 17:31

#### **God's gift to Jesus**

A people, a "seed" – John 17:1-3, 6, 24

#### **The mediator is both God and man**

Fully God – "consubstantial" with the Father  
e.g. John 1:1

Fully Man – consubstantial with us... no sin  
e.g. John 1:14, Hebrews 2:14-17, 4:15

How?! In the one person, Jesus Christ

#### **He is the Spirit-filled man**

Unique not only because divine...  
But because He is filled with the Spirit – Jn 3:35

Equipped to be our Spirit-filled mediator – Ps  
45:7, Acts 10:38

... and surety/guarantor – Heb 12:24, 7:22

Appointed / called by God – Heb 5:4-5

#### **His work: obeying, dying, rising and ruling**

Born under the Law, obeys the Law – Gal 4:4

Suffers and dies: punished by God in our place  
- "most grievous torments", Matt 26:37,38

Risen, ascended: ruling... and praying  
- Salvation accomplished, Heb 9:24, 7:25

He will return, Acts 1:11, Rom 14:9

5. The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself—which he through the eternal Spirit once offered up to God—has fully satisfied the justice of his Father. He purchased not only reconciliation but also an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those whom the Father has given to him.

6. Although the work of redemption was not actually accomplished by Christ until after his incarnation, yet the power, efficacy, and benefits of it were applied to the elect in all ages successively from the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices by which Christ was revealed and signified to be the seed of the woman who would bruise the serpent's head, and to be the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

7. In the work of mediation, Christ acts according to both natures. Each nature does what is proper to itself; yet, by reason of the unity of his person, that which is proper to one nature is in Scripture sometimes attributed to the person designated by the other nature.

8. To all those for whom Christ purchased redemption, he certainly and effectually applies and communicates it. He makes intercession for them and reveals to them, in and by the Word, the mysteries of salvation. He effectually persuades them by his Spirit to believe and obey, and governs their hearts by his Word and Spirit. He overcomes all their enemies by his almighty power and wisdom in such a manner, and by such ways, as are most agreeable to his wonderful and unsearchable administration.

### **His achievement: praise Him!**

The obedience of the one man, Romans 5:19

Justice satisfied: penal substitutionary atonement... out of sheer love... to propitiate the wrath of God, Romans 3:25

Reconciliation... and everlasting inheritance for His people

### **How were the OT saints saved?**

Accomplished: at the Cross

Applied: made effective... by the Spirit... to His elect... before and after the Cross

How were the OT saints saved? In the same way as us! – John 8:56, Revelation 13:8

### **More detail on Christ's person and natures...**

Tricky!

Not saved by his human nature... or his divine nature... but by the person of Christ acting according to both natures!

e.g. saved by Christ's *blood* (human nature – Heb 9:14)... but don't forget it is *Christ's* blood

Biblical language – sometimes says things like...

- The blood of God, Acts 20:28
- Son of man came from heaven, Jn 3:13

Take care... great mystery...

### **How do you benefit from Christ's work as Mediator?**

From salvation accomplished... to salvation applied

Christ always had in view "all those" who were his – John 6:37-39, John 10:15-16

He "effectually applies" redemption

- He intercedes, Rom. 8:34
- reveals salvation, by the Word, Jn 17:6
- rules the hearts of His people, by His Spirit, Rom. 8:9,14
- overcomes all enemies, Col. 2:15, 1 Cor. 15:25-26.

**Personal response: for what should we give thanks... confess... pray?**