

Reformed Doctrine, Chapter VIII Of Christ the Mediator

I.

In the eternal counsel with Himself God ordained that His Son Jesus Christ would be the only mediator between man and God.¹ God ordained Christ, Prophet², Priest,³ and King⁴ along with being the Head and Savior of His church⁵. Jesus Christ is the heir of all things⁶ and the Judge of the world.⁷ From eternity God gave Christ a people to be His seed⁸ and to be in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.⁹

II.

The Son of God is the second person in the Trinity, totally equal to and God. Jesus is of one substance and equal to the father. In the fullness of God's timing take on the nature of man¹⁰ as His own. Jesus Christ took on all of the faculties and attributes of man to include the frailties of the flesh but did not sin¹¹. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary and of Mary's substance¹². The two natures were perfectly and completely combined in the one person, yet distinct natures from each other. God and man perfectly joined together in one person and this union cannot be broken. The two exist without conversion, composition, or confusion¹³. Jesus Christ is God and man, yet, one person the only mediator between God and man¹⁴.

III.

Jesus Christ thereby united the nature of God and man and was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit above measure¹⁵. Christ had in Himself all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge¹⁶. It pleased God that in Christ all fullness should dwell¹⁷ to the end that Christ is holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth¹⁸. Hereby Christ is

¹ Isa. 42:1; I Peter 1:19-20; John 3:16; I Tim. 2:5

² Acts 3:20, 22; see Deut. 18:15

³ Heb. 5:5-6

⁴ Psa. 2:6; Luke 1:33; see Isa. 9:5-6; Acts 2:29-36; Col. 1:13

⁵ Eph. 5:23

⁶ Heb. 1:2

⁷ Acts 17:31

⁸ John 17:6; Psa. 22:30; Isa. 53:10; Eph. 1:4

⁹ I Tim. 2:6; Isa. 55:4-5; I Cor. 1:30; Rom 8:30

¹⁰ John 1:1, 14; I John 5:20; Phil. 2:6; Gal. 4:4

¹¹ Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14, 16-17; 4:15

¹² Luke 1:27, 31, 35; Gal. 4:4; see Matt. 1:18, 20-21

¹³ Matt. 16:16; Col. 2:9; Rom. 9:5; I Tim. 3:16

¹⁴ Rom. 1:3-4; I Tim. 2:5

¹⁵ Psa. 45:7; John 3:34; see Isa. 61:1; Luke 4:18; Heb. 1:8-9

¹⁶ Col 2:3

¹⁷ Col 1:19

¹⁸ Heb. 7:26; John 1:14

thoroughly able to be the only mediator between God and man and God's surety¹⁹ to man. Christ did not take this office but was appointed to it by God²⁰ who put power and judgment into His hand and commanded Christ to do these things.²¹

IV

Jesus most willingly took²² this office upon Himself and so He could fulfill²³ it was made under the Law²⁴ which He perfectly kept. Christ in assuming this office endured most grievous torments immediately in His soul²⁵. His body suffered most painfully²⁶ as He was crucified, died²⁷, and was buried. He remained under the power of death yet saw no corruption²⁸. On the third day He arose from the dead²⁹ with the same body in which He had suffered³⁰. It was also this same body He ascended into heaven with to sit on the right hand of God the Father³¹ making intercession³² for His people. In this body He will return at the end of the world to judge men and angels.³³.

V

Christ, by his perfect obedience, and sacrifice of himself, which he, through the eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, has fully satisfied the justice of God the Father.³⁴ Christ purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father has given to him.³⁵

VI.

The work of redemption was not actually completed by Christ till after his incarnation, but the virtue, efficacy, and benefits were communicated to the elect, in all ages successively from the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices, wherein he was revealed, and signified to be the seed of the woman which

¹⁹ Acts 10:38; Heb. 7:22; 12:24

²⁰ Heb. 5:4-5

²¹ John 5:22, 27; Matt. 28:18; Acts 2:36

²² Psa. 40:7-8; see Heb. 10:5-10; John 4:34; 10:18; Phil. 2:8

²³ Matt. 3:15; 5:17; Heb. 5:8-9

²⁴ Gal. 4:4

²⁵ Matt. 26:37-38; 27:46; Luke 22:44

²⁶ Matt. 26:67-68; 27:27-50

²⁷ Mark 15:24, 37; Phil. 2:8

²⁸ Matt. 27:60; Acts 2:24, 27; 13:29, 37; Rom. 6:9

²⁹ I Cor. 16:3-4

³⁰ Luke 24:39; John 20:25, 27

³¹ Luke 24:50-51; I Peter 3:22

³² Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; see Heb. 9:24

³³ Acts 1:11, 10:42; John 5:28-29; Rom. 14:10b; Matt. 13:40-42; Jude 1:6; see II Peter 2:4

³⁴ Rom. 3:25-26; 5:19; Heb. 9:14; 10:14; Eph. 5:2

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³⁵ Dan. 9:24; II Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:20; Eph. 1:11, 14; Heb. 9:12, 15; John 17:2

should bruise the serpent's head; and the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world; being yesterday and today the same, and forever.³⁶

VII.

Christ accomplishes mediation according to both natures doing what is proper for each nature³⁷. Yet, because of the unity of the person in the Bible we find places where some thing proper for one nature is attributed to the other³⁸.

VIII.

Those whom Christ has purchased redemption for He with all certainty and effectively apply the needed graces and communicates this to the person³⁹. Christ makes intercession for them⁴⁰ and by the Word of God reveals to them the mysteries of salvation⁴¹. Christ effectually persuades them by His Spirit to believe and obey along with governing their hearts by His Word and Spirit⁴². Christ overcomes all of their enemies by His almighty power and wisdom in whatever way or means is in harmony with His wonderful and unsearchable administration or ordering of all things⁴³.

Questions

1. How do you know if you are saved or not?
2. What part do the different natures in Christ have as He mediates for us?
3. How was the death and resurrection of Christ applied in the Old Testament?
4. Were the saints before Christ saved by a different method than those after His incarnation?
5. Why was it necessary for Christ to be made under the law (of Mary's substance)?
6. Why is it said that Christ was without sin?
7. Can any person besides Christ be without sin?
8. What concerning man and God is united in Christ?
9. Why is this man and God union seen only in Christ necessary for the salvation of any?
10. Can another saint intercede with God for you? (Trick question think carefully)
11. What is the difference of mediation and intercession?

mediate >verb 1 try to settle a dispute between two other parties. 2 technical be a medium for (a process or effect).

intercession >noun 1 the action of interceding. 2 the saying a prayer on behalf of another person.

³⁶ Gal. 4:4-5; Gen. 3:15; I Cor. 10:4; Rev. 13:8; Heb. 9:15; 13:8; see Rom. 3:25

³⁷ John 10:17-18; I Peter 3:18; Heb. 1:3; 9:14

³⁸ Acts 20:28; Luke 1:43; see Rom. 9:5

³⁹ John 6:37, 39; 10:15-16, 27-28

⁴⁰ I John 2:1; Rom. 4:34

⁴¹ John 15:15; 17:6; Eph. 1:9

⁴² John 14:26; 17:17; II Cor. 4:13; Rom. 8:9, 14; 15:18-19

⁴³ Psa. 110:1; I Cor. 15:25-26; Col. 2:15; Luke 10:19