

CHAPTER VIII

Of Christ the Mediator

I. It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man; the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Saviour of His Church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world: unto whom He did from all eternity give a people, to be His seed, and to be by Him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

II. The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fulness of time was come, take upon Him man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.

III. The Lord Jesus, in His human nature thus united to the divine, was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit, above measure, having in Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; in whom it pleased the Father that all fulness should dwell; to the end that, being holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth, He might be thoroughly furnished to execute the office of a Mediator and Surety. Which office He took not unto Himself, but was thereunto called by His Father, who put all power and judgment into His hand, and gave Him commandment to execute the same.

IV. This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake; which that He might discharge, He was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfil it, endured most grievous torments immediately in His soul, and most painful sufferings in His body; was crucified, and died; was buried, and remained under the power of death; yet saw no corruption. On the third day He arose from the dead, with the same body in which He suffered, with which also he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth at the right hand of His Father, making intercession, and shall return to judge men and angels at the end of the world.

V. The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience, and sacrifice of Himself, which He, through the eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of His Father; and purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto Him.

VI. Although the work of redemption was not actually wrought by Christ till after His incarnation, yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefits thereof were communicated unto 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 should bruise the serpent's head; and the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world: being yesterday and today the same, and for ever.

VII. Christ, in the work of mediation, acteth according to both natures, by each nature doing that which is proper to itself: yet, by reason of the unity of the person, that which is proper to one nature, is sometimes in Scripture attributed to the person denominated by the other nature.

VIII. To all those for whom Christ hath purchased redemption, He doth certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same, making intercession for them, and revealing unto them, in and by the Word, the mysteries of salvation, effectually persuading them by His Spirit to believe and obey, and governing their hearts by His Word and Spirit, overcoming all their enemies by His almighty power and wisdom, in such manner, and ways, as are most consonant to His wonderful and unsearchable dispensation.

Definition of Terms

1. Mediator
2. Mediation

The Word “Mediator” or similar terms in the Bible

1. In the OT. Job 9:33; Gen.31:37
2. In the NT. The word mediator occurs six times

Of Moses, Gal.3:19-20; cp. Deut.5:5

The Law was handed down by a being even inferior to the angels, by a middleman named Moses. Paul wants us to understand that Christ is the mediator of a better testament than mediator Moses of the Law. Moses led the people out of their tents to meet God. But they ran away. That is how good a mediator Moses was. Luther

Of Christ, 1Tim.2:5; Heb.8:6; 9:15; 12:24

Section I

1. The Divine appointment of the Mediator

It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man; the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Saviour of His Church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world:

2. The Divine Donation to the Mediator

unto whom He did from all eternity give a people, to be His seed, and to be by Him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

1. The Divine appointment of the Mediator

- (a) The Person Appointed
- (b) The Origin of the Appointment
- (c) The Mediatorial Functions

- (a) The Person Appointed

Christ alone, 1Tim.2:5

The Roman Catholic dogma of Mary as mediatrix

The Person as described in section 1

Christ's Person and Names

Heresies in the back of the minds of the divines when formulating this chapter, Adoptionism, Arianism, Apollonianism, Nestorianism.

- (b) The Origin of the Appointment

Of Divine origin in eternity before the worlds.

The election of Christ

WCF Proof Texts. Isa.42:1; 1Pe.1:19; Jn.3:16; 1Tim.2:5

(c) The Mediatorial Functions

In relation to His Church

Prophet

Priest

King

Head

Saviour

In relation to all things

Heir

In relation to the world

Judge

Offices of Prophet, Priest and King in Catechisms

Q. 42. Why was our Mediator called Christ?

A. Our Mediator was called Christ, because he was anointed with the Holy Ghost above measure;^r and so set apart, and fully furnished with all authority and ability,^s to execute the offices of prophet,^t priest,^v and king of his church,^w in the estate both of his humiliation and exaltation.

Q. 43. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in his revealing to the church,^x in all ages, by his Spirit and word,^y in divers ways of administration,^z the whole will of God,^a in all things concerning their edification and salvation.^b

Q. 44. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

A. Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering himself a sacrifice without spot to God,^c to be a reconciliation for the sins of his people;^d and in making continual intercession for them.^e

Q. 45. How doth Christ execute the office of a king?

A. Christ executeth the office of a king, in calling out of the world a people to himself,^f and giving them officers,^g laws,^h and censures, by which he visibly governs them;ⁱ in bestowing saving grace upon his elect,^k rewarding their obedience,^l and correcting them for their sins,^m preserving and supporting them under all their temptations and sufferings,ⁿ restraining and overcoming all their enemies,^o and powerfully ordering all things for his own glory,^p and their good;^q and also in taking vengeance on the rest, who know not God, and obey not the gospel.^r