

The Person of the Mediator

How God shares his life of love and light and all he has with us

Introduction: The purpose of a Mediator

We are accustomed to think of a mediator as one who negotiates between parties to bring them into agreement, maybe making concessions and reconciling differences in order to make each party acceptable to the other. By definition such a mediator must be an independent agent and separate from both sides, external to them and exerting his influence from outside.

If we think of Jesus as Mediator in those terms, though, we will never know him as he really is.

And why is that? Because Jesus does not mediate from the position of a “go-between,” or an independent intermediary external to both parties. He is not a separate being, apart from the Father, representing us and entreating the Father on our behalf in order for us to be approved. Neither is he separate nor apart from us, urging the Father’s view on us in order that we acquiesce. Jesus is not an independent agency working between and on behalf of both parties. He *is* both parties!

The incarnate Jesus was God and human in one and the same Person. He was not two realities, God and human somehow joined or combined together. He is one Reality and One Person who is both God and human in a fleshly body.

He was not God *in* man either, like a prophet or a saint has God in him. Neither was he God in the *form of* man. He was God himself come to us *as man*. God the Son, creator of all things, stepped from eternity into human history and came personally into his creation as a human creature, yet remained the Creator and sustainer of all he has created.

Within the fleshly life of this unique Being, God and humanity are brought together in total unity. The nature of God and the nature of man were in complete harmony, perfectly reconciled and united in a relationship of love, within the human life of Jesus. God and humanity are indivisibly united in the Person of Jesus Christ our Mediator.

Theologically, this is called the *Hypostatic Union*.

One Mediator between God and man: the man Jesus

Instead of negotiating a settlement between God and man by using a mediator in the sense that we usually understand the term, God himself took the whole nature of humanity in its dereliction into his own triune life of love and fellowship, and personally *became* the human Jesus Christ.

By divinely providing himself as the very means of reconciliation, God and Man were reconciled within the human bodily life of the Mediator, so that what he mediates and what he is are the same. The mediation that is *in* Jesus is also the divinely provided person *of* Jesus. It’s in the *person* of Jesus that God and man are reconciled, not in what he taught and demonstrated. He actually *is* the Way, the Truth and the Life (**John 14:16**).

The human Jesus was not just human “back then,” either, because God’s Word tells us he is human “now,” too. Jesus sits at the Father’s right hand right now as a human being! “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (**1 Timothy 2:5**).” The “man” Jesus mediates between us and God. He’s a man, a

human being. He's also described as "God" in that verse, so he's God and human. He's human, yes, but he's still God the Son *incarnate* and will remain so forever, too.

Jesus wasn't a "separate tool," either, that the Father wielded to pay the penalty of our sins by crucifixion, and when that was done Jesus stepped out of human history and back into the glory he had before. When the Father resurrected the human Jesus it was to a new creation, a new humanity created in him, and Jesus took this new humanity into the relationship of perfect love and fellowship that *is* God.

God's plan from the beginning

The Father had determined, even before the creation, to share with others his Triune life of perfect mutual and reciprocal love. The creation became the means whereby he planned to bring about this union of himself and mankind. He also determined, before anything was created, that the Son would be the executor of his plan. Jesus would step into human history to bring about reconciliation, and make us humans fit and ready to exist in God's presence, be included in his own life, and live at "home" as his adopted children.

And, most amazing of all, the Bible tells us that Jesus has completed this work. From his suffering on the Cross, Jesus cried out "It is finished," and so it was. The work the Father sent him to do was completed, and a new humanity was born. Humanity, newly created in Christ Jesus, now lives in the very presence of the Father in and through our Mediator.

Believing God's plan

What if we're not experiencing what Jesus completed, though? Well, I think the reason is we don't believe it. I've realized that the only thing which stops us from participating in the life of God as he intends we should, is that we're still searching for the security of a "home" when the Father has already brought us home - in Christ. We worry that we're "not worthy," perhaps, like the Prodigal Son. Or we feel guilty, but what guilt did the thief on the cross carry? Or we feel lost, but wasn't it the lost sheep that took precedence in Jesus' mind over all those that were safe?

Where do all these doubts and anxieties come from, then? None of them are based on what we see in scripture, so in reality they're lies, and we know who the father of lies is. Deception is the only weapon the Devil has left (since he's now a spent force), so let's stop listening to him and listen to the Word of God instead, which through Paul tells us this, **Ephesians 1:1-12**:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who *has* blessed us with every spiritual blessing *in the heavenly places in Christ*, just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be *holy and without blame before him in love*, having predestined us to *adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to himself*, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he has *made us accepted in the Beloved*. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace which he made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, *having made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself*, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth in him, in whom also *we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of him who works*

all things according to the counsel of his will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of his glory.”

Paul is so overwhelmed by the stupendous thing which he realizes God has done *for, with and in* us through Jesus Christ that he rattles on for 12 verses, hardly pausing for breath! He can see the glory of what God has brought about in Christ Jesus, though, and the extravagant, overflowing grace that the Father pours out to us (you, me and everyone) as he lavishes upon us the almost indescribable heavenly gift in Christ. And notice, it's already been done. Paul is talking *history* here. We are already “in the heavenly places” and already “holy and blameless before him.” Our “adoption as sons,” God has done that, too. When Jesus called out to us, “It is finished,” it is!

Paul is not spouting theoretical rhetoric here, about something that “may happen later” when *we* finally get *ourselves* straightened out! Not at all. He can see that the Father determined not to be without us, so he appointed Jesus Christ to enter into the depths of our humanity and prepare us to be with him forever - “before him” and in his presence - sharing his life of love and light and all he has with us. And, what's more, Paul can see that Jesus has completed that work already. Jesus Christ has come; the job is done.

Conclusion

The Father's Word was not spoken into the ether of eternity, it was spoken into human history and action. It really happened, and it blew the fuses of Paul's Pharisaical mind. It invaded his very soul and heart with hope and joy, and above all, total security in the love of God in Jesus Christ. He so wanted us to see it, too - and so do I.