

LORD'S DAY 6

Q16. Why must the mediator be a true and righteous human?

A. God's justice demands that human nature, which has sinned, must pay for sin;¹ but a sinful human could never pay for others.²

1. Rom. 5:12, 15 – “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned”; “But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.”

2. I Pet. 3:18 – “For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,”

Isa. 53:3–5 – “He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering[a] and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.”

Isa. 53:10–11 – “Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Q17. Why must the mediator also be true God?

A. So that the mediator, by the power of his divinity, might bear the weight of God's wrath in his humanity¹ and earn for us and restore to us righteousness and life.²

1. Isa. 53:8 – “By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.”

Acts 2:24 – “But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.”

I Pet. 3:18 – “For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,”

2. John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

I John 1:2 – “this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—”

I John 4:12 – “No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.”

Q18. Then who is this mediator—true God and at the same time a true and righteous human?

A. Our Lord Jesus Christ,¹ who was given to us to completely deliver us and make us right with God.²

1. Matt. 1:23 – “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel”

I Tim. 3:16 – “Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.”

Luke 2:11 – “to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

2. I Cor. 1:30 – “He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,”

Q19. How do you come to know this?

A. The holy gospel tells me. God began to reveal the gospel already in Paradise;¹ later God proclaimed it by the holy patriarchs and prophets² and foreshadowed it by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law;³ and finally God fulfilled it through his own beloved Son.⁴

1. Gen. 3:15 – “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

2. Gen. 22:18 – “and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Gen. 49:10–11 – “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and the obedience of the peoples is his. Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine, he washes his garments in wine and his robe in the blood of grapes;”

Rom. 1:2 – “which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,”

Heb. 1:1 – “Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,”

Acts 3:22–24 – “Moses said, “The Lord your God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever he tells you. And it will be that everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be utterly rooted out from the people.” And all the prophets, as many as have spoken, from Samuel and those after him, also predicted these days.”

Acts 10:43 – “All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

3. John 5:46 – “If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.”

Heb. 10:7 [1–10] – “Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

4. Rom. 10:4 – “For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.”

Gal. 4:4 – “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,”