

Lord's Day 6

16. Q. Why must he be a true and righteous man?

A. He must be a true man because the justice of God requires that the same human nature which has sinned should pay for sin. He must be a righteous man because one who himself is a sinner cannot pay for others

17. Q. Why must he at the same time be true God?

A. He must be true God so that by the power of his divine nature he might bear in his human nature the burden of God's wrath, and might obtain for us and restore to us righteousness and life

18. Q. But who is that Mediator who at the same time is true God and a true and righteous man?

A. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness. and redemption (1 Cor 1:30)

19. Q. From where do you know this?

A. From the holy gospel, which God himself first revealed in Paradise. Later, he had it proclaimed by the patriarchs and prophets, and foreshadowed by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law. Finally, he had it fulfilled through his only Son

2 Cor 11:4 - *For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough*

If someone came up and asked you the following – how would you respond?

- Is Jesus God?
- Is Jesus a man?
- Is He still a man today?
 - Where is Jesus today? – Heaven? Everywhere?
 - But I thought flesh and blood could not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor 15:50)
- Does Jesus have one nature or two natures – God / man / or both?
- Was He 50% man and 50% God?
 - Is He just God?
 - Is He just a man?
- Were His human nature and divine nature mixed together?
 - Or were they simply attached together?
- Were there two people in Christ?
 - A divine person and a human person?
- Did Jesus have 1 will or 2 wills
 - A human will / a divine will – or both?
- Is Jesus a god but a lessor God than the Father?

Important questions to ask regarding this topic is:

- Who is the biblical Jesus?
- Why does it matter?
- Why is it so significant that we have the correct understanding of who Jesus was?

Lord's Day 6 focuses on the humanity and deity of Christ

- Church history, especially the first 500 years, had many different heresies to fight regarding the true nature of Jesus
 - Was Jesus God
 - Was Jesus a man
 - Was He a little bit of both
 - Were his divine and human natures mixed?
 - Did He have two wills – a human and a divine, or only one will?
 - Were there two separate people in Christ:
 - A divine person and a human person?
- Many of those false views about Jesus have continued on till today

Understanding the true nature of Christ is crucial

Why is this so important?

- 1 - If Jesus wasn't completely human like us, we could not be saved by His blood
 - He had to become exactly what we are
 - Jesus did not become an angel to redeem angels
 - He became a man to redeem mankind
 - With both a body and a soul
- 2 - If Jesus was not completely God, then His death cannot save us
 - We need a perfect Savior
 - Only God can forgive sin
 - This is why virgin birth is so important
 - Because Jesus took on a human nature
 - He was born a human being
 - He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
 - He is still completely God in human flesh
 - His human nature and His divine nature never mixed
 - They stayed united, but separate and distinct
 - If they mixed – there would be a change to His divine nature, which is impossible:
 - **Malachi 3:6** – *For I the Lord do not change*

The Historic Roots of Many False Claims about Christ

- 4th Century Arian heresy – Jehovah’s Witnesses of Today
 - Jesus, as the Son, was the first created being by the Father
 - He is not co-eternal with the Father
 - The Son of God has not always existed
 - Jesus is lessor than the father
 - Problem: Jesus is not fully God / Jesus is not eternal
 - Therefore – His death cannot save you
- The Mormon –
 - Jesus is one of many spirit children that God produced
 - Jesus is on his path to becoming a god by his good works
 - Just like his father did before him
 - Eventually Jesus will get his own planet
 - become the god of that planet
 - and produce spirit children
 - just like his father did on this earth
 - The Problem: God is not one
 - We are not dealing with the one true God of the Bible
 - Therefore - the God of Mormonism cannot save you
- Sabellian heresy of the 3rd Century – Oneness Pentecostalism
 - God is not three Persons who comprise one God
 - Rather God is one God and one Person
 - He simply changes modes:
 - He changes from the mode of the Father / Son / HS
 - It is the same God but in a different mode
 - This is why it is often referred to as “Modalism”
 - The Problem: Each person of the Trinity has their specific role in redemption
 - The Father begets the Son
 - The Son comes to earth and takes on a human nature
 - The Spirit is sent from both the Father and the Son as the “Paraclete” / “Comforter”
 - If God is simply one person who changes modes:
 - How can the plan of redemption be fully accomplished?
- The occult teaching of Jesus – Hinduism and the New Age
 - Jesus was the combination of two higher beings (ascended masters)
 - The lessor human being “Master Jesus” –
 - The greater spiritual being “the cosmic Christ”
 - Jesus was the man who was inhabited by the greater spiritual being referred to as the “cosmic Avatar”

- This union created the spiritual man
- Jesus is god the same way you and I are god – he just realized this potential
 - The Problem: Jesus is simply god just like everyone else
 - He cannot save you

1. Ebionism

- Denied the deity of Christ
- Jesus did not exist prior to his birth
 - Therefore – He is not eternal
- Jesus had the Holy Spirit only after his baptism
- Why is this a heresy?
 - Because if Jesus is not God, His death cannot redeem us

2. Docetism

- Denied the humanity of Jesus
- Jesus simply appeared to be human
 - When He walked on the beach He did not leave any footprints because He wasn't material
 - His physical body was an illusion
 - He could not have a material body because matter itself is evil
- Why is this a heresy?
 - Because if Jesus was not fully human, nobody could be redeemed by His death

3. Nestorianism

- The Son of Man is one person
- The Son of God is another person
 - Like Siamese twins
- The Divine Logos (God) indwelt the person of Jesus
 - As opposed to the 2nd Person of the Trinity (Jesus) taking on a human nature
- Why is this a heresy?
 - Because Jesus was one person with two natures
 - Not two people with two natures
 - Nestorianism makes Christ a “God-bearing” Man rather than the God-Man

4. Apollinarianism

- Jesus was not completely human
- Jesus had a human body and also a divine soul
- Why is this a heresy?
 - Apollinarianism teaches Jesus did not have a human soul
 - Rather – His soul was divine
 - If Jesus was not FULLY human - He cannot redeem us

5. Eutychianism

- Eutychus –
 - Believed there were two natures before the incarnation
 - Both the human and divine nature
 - But the two natures during the incarnation were mixed into one nature
 - Why is this a heresy?

- Because there is a change within the deity of Christ
 - God cannot change
 - If God changes – He denies Himself
- While united, Christ two natures are not mixed, changed, or confused
- They remain distinct while united and retain their essential properties
- The divine would not be divine unless it was divine
- The human would not be human unless it was human
 - One person in two distinct natures
- Whatever is said of Christ:
 - Whether it be just His human nature
 - Or just His divine nature
 - Is said truly and really of his *whole divine person*

Which Nature of Jesus is the Bible Speaking of in the Following Verses: His divine nature / human nature / or both?

- His human nature
 - **Matt 4:2** - *And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry*
 - **Matt 8:24** - *And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep*
 - **John 11:35** – *Jesus wept*
- His divine nature
 - **John 8:58** - *Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am*
 - Quoting **Exodus 3:14** – Identifying Himself as the voice of the burning bush
 - **John 20:28** - *Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”*
 - Thomas recognized Jesus being God
 - **John 1:1** – *In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God.*
 - In a qualitative sense - Jesus is God the same way the Father is God
 - Two distinct persons who are co-equal
- Sometimes both the human and divine nature are mentioned
 - **Romans 9:5** - *To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.*
 - Here we see both the human nature of Jesus and His deity being expressed
 - 1 - Jesus was born as a man
 - In the Jewish line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
 - 2 - Jesus is God over all
 - The title by which the one and supreme God was known amongst the Jews
 - **John 5:17 -18** - ¹⁷*But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”* ¹⁸*This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God*
 - **1** - The context here is the Sabbath Day

- Jesus is saying He and His Father were working together on the Sabbath
- How so?
 - Someone had to be running the universe on the Sabbath day
 - Therefore, God could not rest
 - When Jesus says He and the Father are both working on the Sabbath
 - He is saying He is running the universe as well
 - He is working on the Sabbath
 - Maintaining the universe was a divine action
 - This, and calling God His Father, are how He made Himself out to be God
 - 2 - Jesus was also a man capable of death
 - As we see when the Jews are plotting to kill Him
- Another difficult text:
 - **Matthew 24:36** - *But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.*
 - I believe this to be referring to His human nature
 - Jesus learned growing up
 - **Hebrews 5:8** - *Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered*
 - When Jesus spoke these words, the answer had not been given to Him
 - This is why I believe the answer to this verse regarding how Jesus could not know something is because He was speaking through His human nature which was limited

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 21. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, for ever