

THE 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

Christ the Mediator (4)

A. Introduction

1. Two things we are commanded to do as elders are to watch and to hold.

We are to watch what we believe, to make sure we are believing what God's Word says.

"Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Timothy 4:16)

We are to hold firmly to the truths taught in God's Word.

"He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it." (Titus 1:9)

It is vital we do these two things, not just for our own sake, but also for the members of this church and in fact those who live in the community God has placed us in.

To help us to watch and to hold, we are spending our elders' meeting working through the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith a paragraph or so at a time.

2. The Lord Jesus was chosen and appointed to be the mediator between God and man by fulfilling the threefold office of prophet, priest, and king, for those people He was given as a gift in eternity.

But who is the Lord Jesus?

That's the question the second paragraph of Chapter 8 of the Confession answers.

"The Son of God, the second person in the Holy Trinity, being very and eternal God, the brightness of the Father's glory, of one substance and equal with Him who made the world, who upholds and governs all things He has made, did, when the fullness of time was complete, take upon Him man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities of it, yet without sin; being conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit coming down upon her: and the power of the Most High overshadowing her; and so was made of a woman of the tribe of Judah, of the seed of Abraham and David according to the Scriptures; so that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures 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."

In this wonderfully dense paragraph we learn about His full deity, His true humanity, His sinless integrity, His miraculous nativity, and His singular personality.

The paragraph begins by discussing the deity of Christ, the truth that Jesus is fully God.

B. The Lord Jesus, the only mediator between God and man, is the eternal God.

1. Jesus is the Son of God.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

"The Son of God, the second person in the Holy Trinity..."

He is not the Father, nor the Holy Spirit, but the Son.

2. Jesus is the eternal God.

"..being very and eternal God..."

"He was with God in the beginning." (John 1:2)

"And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began." (John 17:5)

As the Son of God, in His divine nature, Jesus never came into existence, but was from all eternity.

C. The Lord Jesus, the only mediator between God and man, is the revelation of God

1. Jesus shows us who God is.

"...the brightness of the Father's glory, of one substance and equal with Him..."

Being fully God, He can reveal God the Father.

"No-one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known." (John 1:18)

"Jesus answered, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work." (John 14:9-10)

Being fully God, He is God, just as much as God the Father, is God.

"Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped." (Philippians 2:6)

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word." (Hebrews 1:3)

In His divinity, Jesus is not inferior to either the Father or the Spirit.

When the Confession says they are "*of one substance*", it means by this that they are equally God.

2. Jesus shows us what God is.

"...and equal with Him who made the world, who upholds and governs all things He has made..."

He reveals God to be the Creator.

"Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." (John 1:3)

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him." (Colossians 1:15-16)

He reveals God to be the Sustainer and Ruler.

"He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:15-17)

D. How then shall we lead?

1. This truth that Jesus is God is amazing.

Never lose the wonder of who the man Christ Jesus is – He is the Son of God.

2. This truth that Jesus is God is to be accepted.

We must affirm His full deity [a truth that is attacked by the cults!]