

## THE 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

### Christ the Mediator (8)

#### 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.

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

*"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."*

What is meant by when we say Jesus has a singular personality?

#### B. We are affirming that the Lord Jesus has two natures

1. Christ has a divine nature and a human nature.

He is wholly and perfectly God.

"Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, for ever praised! Amen." (Romans 9:5)

He is wholly and perfectly man.

"No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Mark 13:32)

Jesus is fully God and truly man.

2. Christ's divine nature and human nature are joined together in one person forever.

*"...so that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion."*

How are the divine and human joined together within His person?

Without conversion, that is, without the changing of one nature into the other.

Without composition, that is, without the mixing of the two natures together which would have formed a new third nature.

Without confusion, that is, without the characteristics of one nature being transferred to the other.

"So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)

"For in Christ all the fulness of the Deity lives in bodily form." (Colossians 2:9)

Jesus is not less God than God is, or less human than we are.

Jesus is not some new creature that is neither God nor man.

Jesus is fully God and truly man, without either nature being compromised in any way.

### **C. We are affirming that the Lord Jesus is one person**

1. Jesus is one person who is both fully God and truly man.

*"...which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man."*

There is not a human Christ and a divine Christ.

He is one person with two natures (hence why He is never referred to in Scripture in the plural).

2. Jesus is therefore, the one person who can mediate between God and man, as only He, being both God and man, is able to represent both God and man.

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men." (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

### **D. How then shall we lead?**

1. This truth that Jesus is one person with two natures is amazing.

There is a mystery to it that is beyond our ability to comprehend.

All the attempts to explain the mystery of how this can be have always resulted in heresy – hence the need for the creeds of the early church.

2. This truth that Jesus is one person with two natures is to be accepted.

If this is not true, there is no mediator and no salvation.

If you do not believe it is true, you have no mediator and no salvation.