

THE 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

Christ the Mediator (9)

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.

He is fully God and truly man. One person with two natures, who did not and could not sin as He did not inherit the sinful nature that all humans have inherited from Adam as a result of His miraculous nativity.

But what is about Christ that makes Him a suitable choice for this work of being the mediator?

The third paragraph of Chapter 8 of the Confession tells us.

"The Lord Jesus, in His human nature thus united to the divine, in the person of the Son, was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit above measure, having in Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; in whom it pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, to the end that being holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth, He might be thoroughly furnished to execute the office of mediator and surety; which office He took not upon himself, but was thereunto called by His Father who also put all power and judgement in His hand, and gave Him commandment to execute the same."

Two reasons why He was qualified for this role.

B. He was sanctified

1. To sanctify means to set apart or to make holy.

Jesus was set apart by the Holy Spirit to be the mediator between God and man.

"The Lord Jesus, in His human nature thus united to the divine, in the person of the Son, was sanctified..."

Though set apart from all other humans because of His divine nature, He was also set apart in His human nature by the Holy Spirit.

2. He was sanctified by the Spirit at His conception.

"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 1:18)

C. He was anointed

1. In the Old Testament, those who were appointed to do specific tasks, such as prophets, priests, and kings, were anointed.

This anointing was a physical symbol of the Spirit granting them extraordinary abilities which enabled them to fulfil the role they had been given by God.

The Lord Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit.

"The Lord Jesus, in His human nature thus united to the divine, in the person of the Son, was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit above measure..."

"For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit."
(John 3:34)

This anointing of the Spirit ordained, sustained, and empowered Christ in His task as mediator, in accordance with what was prophesied in Isaiah.

"The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD – and he will delight in the fear of the LORD." (Isaiah 11:2-3)

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners." (Isaiah 61:1)

2. He was anointed by the Spirit at His baptism.

This anointing by the Spirit at Jesus' baptism accomplished three things.

It announced Jesus as the mediator.

"When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:21-22)

It identified Jesus as the mediator.

"I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptise with water told me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptise with the Holy Spirit." (John 1:33)

It empowered Jesus to be the mediator

He preached in the power of the Spirit fulfilling the office of prophet.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him." (Luke 4:14-15)

He performed miracles in the power of the Spirit fulfilling the office of king.

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him." (Acts 10:38)

He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice in the power of the Spirit fulfilling the office of priest.

"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" (Hebrews 9:14)

3. Why did Jesus need the anointing of the Holy Spirit?

As the Son of God, He could have depended upon His own divine resources.

Yet He chose to depend upon His Father who sanctified and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit.

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”
(Philippians 2:6)

Why?

It was so His obedience in our place, was obedience that came from His human nature not His divine nature.

The Holy Spirit enabled Him to be fully dependent and obedient to God the Father.

D. How then shall we lead?

1. Recognise that the life of Christ sets a pattern for us to follow.

The better we understand the way He obeyed God, the better we will understand how we are to obey God.

2. Recognise that the Spirit who enabled Christ is available to us.

He obeyed God because He was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and we can obey God because we have been given the Holy Spirit too.