

THE 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

Christ the Mediator (11)

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."

Jesus was qualified for this role of mediator because He was sanctified and anointed by the Spirit.

This sanctifying and anointing by the Spirit equipped Him to be the mediator who can give us the wisdom, righteousness and grace that we need.

Jesus was qualified and equipped to be the mediator, but how was He appointed?

B. The Son was appointed by the Father to be the mediator

1. Jesus Christ did not choose to make Himself the mediator between God and man.

He was called to this office by the Father.

"...which office He took not upon himself, but was thereunto called by His Father..."

"So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." (Hebrews 5:5)

2. It is through Him that God the Father has chosen to mediate the blessings of salvation to His people.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will." (Ephesians 1:3-5)

But the Father hasn't just chosen Christ to be the mediator.

C. The Son was appointed by the Father to be the judge

1. Jesus Christ has been given authority by the Father to judge.

"...who also put all power and judgement in His hand, and gave Him commandment to execute the same."

He has been entrusted with this responsibility.

"Moreover, the Father judges no-one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father." (John 5:22)

"And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man." (John 5:27)

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (Matthew 28:18)

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36)

2. It is through Him that God the Father has chosen to judge the living and the dead.

"For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." (Acts 17:31)

The same qualities that equip Him for the role of mediator, also equip Him to be the perfect judge.

Because He is "*holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth*", He can be trusted to be just in His judgment.

"Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25)

D. How then shall we lead?

1. By ensuring that we present Jesus' role correctly.

He is the friend of sinners – the compassionate Saviour.

But He is also the judge of all – the One before whom every knee shall bow.

2. By ensuring that we present Jesus' authority correctly.

He does offer eternal life.

He does invite us to come to Him.

But He also commands everyone everywhere to repent.

He insists on our worship and obedience.