

The Theology of the Westminster Standards
WCF 8:1 – Christ the Mediator

“No chapter in the Confession contains as much pertinent to what is central in Christian confession as does Chapter VIII.” – John Murray

I. Introduction: Christ as Mediator

A. Our Need for a Mediator

1. **Is 59:2** – *“... but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”*
2. Moses’ Intercession for Israel
 - a. **Ex 32:30–32** – *“The next day Moses said to the people, ‘You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.’³¹ So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold.³² But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.”*
3. Job’s Growing Plea
 - a. **Job 9:33 (NIV)** – *“If only there were someone to mediate between us, someone to bring us together,³⁴ someone to remove God’s rod from me, so that his terror would frighten me no more.”*
 - b. **Job 16:33** – *“Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and he who testifies for me is on high.”*

A. Jesus is our “Mediator” in His role as the representative head who, because of God’s love (!), achieves unbreakable covenant fellowship between God and sinners.

1. Heb 8:6 – *“But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.”*
2. He 9:15 – *“Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.”*
3. Heb 12:24 – *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”*

II. WCF 8.1 – The Appointment of Christ (as Mediator) in Eternity

“It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Savior of his church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world: unto whom he did from all eternity give a people, to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.” (WCF 8.1)

A. WHO is the Mediator?

1. The Eternal Son of God the Father

- a. **John 1:14** – “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*”
- b. **John 11:27** – “*All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*”

2. The Son as the “Mediator” of Creation

- a. **Col 1:16** – “*For by him [i.e., the Son] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*”

“The Christ who appears on earth in the fulness of time is therefore ... not a man as other men are, not a founder of a religion and a preacher of a new moral law. His position is unique. He was from eternity as the only-begotten of the Father. He was the Creator, Sustainer, and Governor of all things. In him was the life and light of men. When He appears in the world, He comes to it not as a stranger, but as its Lord, as one who is related to it.”

– Herman Bavinck, *The Wonderful Works of God*, 265.

B. WHAT will the Mediator do?

1. **Acts 3:22** – “*Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.’”*
2. **Heb 5:5** – “*Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you.’”*
3. **Luke 1:33** – “*... and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*”

C. FOR WHOM is Christ a Mediator?

1. **Eph 1:3–4** – “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*”
2. **1 Tim 2:5–6** – “*For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.*”

*The sovereign King of kings,
The Lord of lords most high,
Writes his own name upon
His garment and his thigh:
His name is called The Word of God;
He rules the earth with iron rod.*

*But when for works of peace
The great Redeemer comes,
What gentle characters,
What titles he assumes!
Light of the world, and Life of men;
Nor will he bear those names in vain.*

*Immense compassion reigns
In our Immanuel's heart,
**When he descends to act
A Mediator's part:**
He is a Friend and Brother too;
Divinely kind, divinely true.*

(Isaac Watts, “With Cheerful Voice I Sing”)