

The Theology of the Westminster Standards
WCF 8.2 – The Mediator as Both God and Man

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

I. Introduction

- A. “Mediator” Defined: Because of the love of God, Jesus has become our covenantal representative and substitute, who has secured unbreakable fellowship between God and sinners, to be received and enjoyed through faith in him.
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. **John 3:16–17** – *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”*
- B. Christ Appointed 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)

1. **2 Tim 1:9** – *“[God] saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began ...”*

II. The Identity of the Mediator: The God-Man

“The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man’s nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, 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.” (WCF 8.2)

	WHO IS OUR MEDIATOR?	
<i>The Son of God</i>		
	<i>the second person in the Trinity</i>	
		<i>being very and eternal God,</i>
		<i>of one substance and equal with the Father,</i>
	WHAT DID HE DO TO BECOME OUR MEDIATOR?	
<i>did</i>		
	<i>when the fullness of time was come,</i>	
<i>take upon him man's nature</i>		
	<i>with all the essential properties,</i>	
	<i>and common infirmities thereof,</i>	
<i>yet without sin</i>		
	HOW DID THE INCARNATION HAPPEN?	
	<i>being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost,</i>	
		<i>in the womb of the virgin Mary,</i>
		<i>of her substance.</i>
	WHAT IS THE RESULT?	
<i>So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures,</i>		
	<i>the Godhead and the manhood,</i>	
<i>were inseparably joined together. in one person,</i>		
	<i>without conversion, composition, or confusion.</i>	
<i>Which person is very God, and very man</i>		
	<i>yet one Christ,</i>	
		<i>the only Mediator between God and man.</i>

III. Application

- A. What does it mean, therefore, to say that “God became man”? Did God change his deity to “become” man? Did the Son give up any divine attributes in the incarnation?

“The Word was not hedged in by the body, nor did His presence in the body prevent His being present elsewhere as well. When He moved His body He did not cease also to direct the universe by His Mind and might ...” (Athanasius of Alexandria)

- B. What ought to comfort you about the identity of Jesus Christ as your mediator?