

The Theology of the Westminster Standards
WCF 8.3 – The Equipping and Calling of 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. Review

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.*”

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 ...”

C. Christ’s Incarnation as the Mediator

“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)

1. **Phil 2:6** – “Jesus, ⁶ ... though he was in the form of God [NIV: ‘being in very nature God’], did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”

II. The Equipping and Calling of the Mediator

“The Lord Jesus, in his human nature thus united to the divine, 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 a mediator, and surety. Which office he took not unto himself, but was thereunto called by his Father, who put all power and judgment into his hand, and gave him commandment to execute the same. (WCF 8.3)

A. The “Equipping” by the Holy Spirit in the INCARNATION of Christ.

1. **Luke 1:35** – “*And the angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.’”*
2. Why is it significant that Jesus took on a *real* human nature? Why is it significant that he took on a *sinless* human nature?

B. The “Equipping” by the Holy Spirit in the LIFE of Christ.

1. **Luke 2:40** – “*And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.*” (Cf. Isaiah 11:1–2, 50:4–7)
2. **John 3:34** – “*For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.*” Cf. Acts 10:37–38.
3. How should Christ’s being “equipped” with the Holy Spirit as a man inform our lives today? (Hint: read Eph 4:18–21!)

C. The “Equipping” by the Holy Spirit in the WORK of Christ as Mediator.

1. **Heb 9:13** – “*... how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*”

“From womb to tomb, the devotion of the eternal Spirit to the eternal Son in the flesh was abundantly evident.” (Ferguson)

2. **Heb 7:22** – “*This makes Jesus the surety [ESV: guarantor] of a better covenant ... [For] he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.²⁵ Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*”

“It would be a mistake to think of the mediator only in his weakness, and not in his strength. Our mediator is one who was given all power (Matt 28:18), and to him is committed all judgment (John 5:22, 27). He died, but did not remain dead; he has risen and has ascended to the heavens. As Peter explained to a great guilty crowd almost two-thousand years ago, that ‘same Jesus’ who once was crucified has been made by God ‘both Lord and Christ’ (Acts 2:36). It is through the risen and ascended mediator that we worship our God.” (Chad Van Dixhoorn).