

Who is The Mediator Between God and Man?

This question is worthy and deserving of much thought and study, especially when we consider that man, because of sin, has alienated himself from God (Isa. 59:1-2), and is therefore in need of reconciliation. Thus, we see the need of a mediator.

But **what** is a mediator? “*Mediator*” is “translated from *mesites*, and is used in two ways in the N.T., (a) one who mediates between two parties with a view to producing peace, as in I Tim. 2:5, and (b) one who acts as a guarantee so as to secure something which otherwise would not be obtained. Thus in Heb. 8:6; 9:15; 12:24 Christ is the Surety of ‘the better covenant,’ ‘the new covenant,’ guaranteeing its terms for His people” (**Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words**, by W.E. Vine).

With regards to item (a) in the above paragraph, we now read I Tim. 2:5; “*For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*” And with regards to item (b) in the above paragraph, we now read Heb. 8:6 which says this concerning Jesus Christ: “*But now He has obtained a more excellent, ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.*” Also please note Heb. 9:15 which has this to say concerning Jesus Christ: “*And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*”

As stated in paragraph two, a mediator is “one who mediates between two parties, with a view to producing peace, as in I Tim. 2:5,” which says “*there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*” Yes, “*there is **one** mediator between God and man...*” Mathematically, we know that “one” is one more than none, and one less than two. The “*one mediator*” is identified as “*Christ Jesus.*” Hence, the “*one mediator*” is not Mohammed; it is not Mary; it is not the pope, it is not a priest sitting next to a “parishoner” in a confessional booth listening to that person confessing his sins and then absolving him of his sins.

It is a fact that inasmuch as “*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*” Rom. 3:23, we need a mediator, a go-between, one who can mediate between both God and man. And Jesus alone is qualified to serve in this capacity! You see, of all who ever lived on planet earth, Jesus Christ was the only One ever to possess the qualities of both God **and** man; yes, Jesus alone possessed the characteristics of both God and man.

Concerning the God-hood of Jesus, please note John 1:1-3: “*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God.** He was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.*” Now skip down to verse 14, and we read that “*the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*” Yes, when Jesus came to the earth, He was “**God...manifested in the flesh,**” I Tim. 3:16. Jesus both recognized, and affirmed, his own God-hood, as in John 5:17 wherein He said “*My Father has been working until now, and I have been*

working.” After Jesus made this statement, the Jews sought to kill Him because He said “*God was His Father, making Himself **equal** with God,*” John 5:18. The inspired apostle Paul was in full agreement with the concept of the God-hood of Jesus Christ, for He wrote, saying, that “*in Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily,*” Col. 2:9. When Jesus dwelt on the earth He was fully God. Hence, when He was born of a virgin, an angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph, informing him that that which was “*conceived in*” Mary was “*of the Holy Spirit,*” and that this was in fulfillment of that which was “*spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated **God with us,***” Matt.1:20-23; cf. Isaiah 7:14. Yes, when Jesus was born, He was indeed “*Immanuel,*” meaning “**God with us!**”

And Jesus was also fully **man!** With this in mind, please note Phil. 2:5-8: “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus; (6) Who, being in the form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, (7) but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men, (8) And being found in appearance **as a man,** He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*” “*As a man,*” Jesus experienced hunger, Matt. 4:2, fatigue and thirst, John 4:6-7, and He “*was in all point tempted as we are,*” Heb. 4:15. However, though Jesus was tempted, He did not sin, Heb. 4:15; He “*committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth,*” I Pet. 2:21.

Because of His God-hood, Jesus fully knows the demands of God. And, having lived upon the earth “*as a man,*” Jesus fully knows the needs of man. Because of these qualities, Jesus is our High Priest, One who “*was in all points tempted as we are,*” and this enables His followers to “*come boldly to the throne of grace,*” fully confident that thereby they can “*obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need,*” Heb. 4:15-16.

Because of both His **God-hood** and His **man-hood**, Jesus Alone is able to serve as the “*One Mediator between God and men,*” I Tim. 2:5, and Jesus Alone was therefore able to say “*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me,*” John 14:6. And this fully harmonizes with Acts 4:12, wherein concerning Jesus Christ the apostle Peter said: “*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*”

Interestingly, Jesus is the “*one Mediator between God and men,*” I Tim. 2:5, and He also, by reason of His death on the cross, is “*the Mediator of the new covenant,*” Heb. 9:15 (“*of the new testament,*” KJV). Hence, those who “*come to God through*” Jesus (John 14:6), do so by complying with the terms of pardon set forth in the new covenant of which Jesus is “*the Mediator.*”

With the aforementioned facts in mind, it should be obvious that if Jesus is the “*one Mediator between God and men,*” I Tim. 2:5, then we can not approach God through Mary, through some “*saint,*” a priest, Mohammed, Joe Smith, or some angel. And we can not substitute The Book of Mormon, the Catholic Catechism, the Methodist Discipline, man-made creeds, or our own feelings in the place of the New Covenant of

which Jesus is “*the Mediator*.”

Furthermore, it behooves us also to stress the fact that those who deny that Jesus was “*Immanuel*,” meaning “*God with us*,” who ridicule His virgin birth, and who refuse to believe in His resurrection, are guilty of ruining the most beautiful and appealing picture in all the Bible — a loving God sending His “*only begotten Son*” in “*the likeness of sinful flesh*” (Rom. 8:3) that for sin He might atone.

Yes, Jesus is the “*one Mediator between God and man*,” I Tim. 2:5. Indeed, He is “*the way, the truth, and the life*,” John 14:6. “*Into Christ*” we must be “*baptized*” (Gal. 3:27), and “*into*” the “*one body*” (I Cor. 2:13), which is His church (Eph. 1:22-23), and in which one is reconciled “*unto God*” (Eph 2:16).

Inasmuch as Jesus is “*the one Mediator between God and men*,” I Tim. 2:5, then, to be saved, we must “*come*” to Jesus, Matt. 11:28, and we “*come*” to Him by complying with His terms of pardon, which are clearly stated in the “*new covenant*” of which He is “*the mediator*” (Heb. 9:15). Consider ye well!

*** — B. Witherington