

Heidelberg Catechism 36 – Christ’s Perfect Nature Needed for Your Peace

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The League of Nations and then the United Nations were expected to bring peace when they were formed. But conflicts have not only continued, they have increased. There is no peace between the Muslim insurgencies and African governments in Uganda, Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Congo, Sudan, and on and on. Communists are still trying for world domination. President Putin has invaded countries and no one could stop him. Israelis and the Palestinians are still fighting. North Korea, as much as they have been bribed, are still causing trouble with South Korea and Japan. Recently, even in North America, as soon as you speak God’s truth, the press and politicians stifle you, and now we are threatened with jail for speaking God’s Word and doing God’s work. Quoting the Bible is considered “hate speech.”

But true peace is here...here to stay. Did you know that? Peace came through a unique man, Jesus Christ. His uniqueness as the Peacemaker started at his conception and birth. So if the world gets to know this unique Peacemaker child, who he was and what he did, and the world puts its faith in him, the world would not only find peace with each other, but it would find peace with God. That is the subject from God’s Word today.

Our headings are:

For peace with God, Jesus Christ had to be a Human Mediator

For peace with God, Jesus had to be born pure and innocent

For peace with God, Jesus Christ had to be holy and live a holy life to die in his Human Body.

Our goals are: That you will see Jesus fully met the qualifications to secure you peace with God, and that you will then love him more and serve him better.

Q36 How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

A. He is our Mediator, and with His innocence and perfect holiness He removes from God’s sight my sin--mine since I was conceived.

For Peace with God, Jesus Christ had to be a Human Mediator

1. Jesus was qualified to be your Mediator and make peace with God when he took on a human body and was born of the Virgin Mary.

He had to have a human body. We touched on this already. See Phil 2:8.

1Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

If man sinned, man had to die. Specifically, to understand his humanity, you have to back to his birth.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

2. There was no other human (before or after) who was fit to be your Mediator and make peace with God, even though you desperately needed someone to do so.

Isn’t it most important to have the right person in a mediation case? If you have an inexperienced lawyer, you probably wouldn’t get the best kind of representation. But if you have one who is eminently qualified, you would feel more confident in front of the judge.

There is no one better to fight for you before the Father except Jesus. He has never lost a case! There is no other in the history of the universe fit to do it. Only Jesus in his human body could do it.

You are privileged to have him as your advocate.

For peace with God, Christ had to be Born Pure and Innocent

1. Jesus’ taking on a human body was important, but it was just as important he be pure and innocent.

No one could just bring another man to God and say: “Here is a man to die for me.” God’s response would always be: “How dare you come before me with a sinful man?” God wanted an innocent sacrifice!

No one could just bring a clean animal to God and say: “Here is a clean animal to die for me.” God’s response would always be, “Even if you bring the blood of a perfect sacrifice, it only ceremonially purifies the offerer. It cannot literally remove your sins.”

Jesus was the “Lamb of God” and was without spot...without sin...pure...innocent.

Hebrews 9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered **Himself without spot to God**, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 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.

Jesus, the man, was pure enough to die in man’s place.

2. You can see Jesus’ innocence pre-figured in the Old Testament sacrificial system.

Look at the purity of the animal sacrifices God required. Note how even these pictures of Jesus had to be perfectly pure and clean.

Exodus 12:5 ‘Your **lamb shall be without blemish**, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

Look at some other examples of different kinds of sacrifices that pictured Christ and his work.

Leviticus 1:3 ‘If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a **male without blemish**...

Leviticus 4:2 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘If a person sins unintentionally against any of the commandments of the LORD in anything which ought not to be done, and does any of them, 3 ‘if the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, then let him offer to the LORD for his sin which he has sinned a **young bull without blemish** as a sin offering.

Numbers 28:19 But ye shall offer a sacrifice made by fire for a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, and seven lambs of the first year: they shall be unto you **without blemish**:

For peace with God, Christ had to Live a Holy life to die in his Human Body

1. Jesus not only had to be born human and be pure and innocent, he also had to follow the path of true holiness from childhood to death – a path that exemplified perfect obedience.

2. Only by living a pure and holy life would Jesus be fit to die for man’s sins.

The **law could not make peace with God**. Man could not keep the law. The law was holy but man was imperfect and could not keep it. Jesus had to do so for man.

Romans 8:3 For **what the law could not do** in that it was weak through the flesh, God **did by sending His own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

3. Jesus’ punishment is more clearly seen when you consider that God’s Son had to become sin for you.

And he was the only one qualified to become sin because he had no sin. He was born pure and continued to live a pure life to be able to credit you with his righteousness.

2Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him **who knew no sin** to be sin for us, that we might **become the righteousness of God** in Him.

4. Jesus Christ obeyed throughout his life because he loved you; love moved him.

Even when there were those who opposed him, he set his face like flint...to do what was necessary for those the Father had given to him. Your righteousness came at a great price!

5. Jesus' incarnation was not just when he was born, but it continued for all 33½ years.

Jesus had to obey the law. That is why he was born under the oversight of the law. **He had to go through all the ceremonies.** He had to be **circumcised.** He had to **pay taxes.** He had to **honor his parents.** He had to **keep the Sabbath holy.** He had to be **pure.** He could **not steal.** He had to **speak the truth.** He did all of this so you could get the credit.

6. Jesus had to continue to obey throughout his life, even in suffering.

His hunger, his thirst, his tiredness, facing abuse and insults, being mocked, and being betrayed...are all part of what he had to experience as a man for your sakes. He has to subject himself to be tempted of the Devil and pass the temptations of the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life. Jesus also had to suffer by becoming dependent on a human family – and a poor one at that.

Do you realize how much humility it took for the God of the universe, who created everything seen and unseen and upholds them by his powerful word, to subject himself to a poor family in backward Galilee? He had to pick up the trade of a **poor carpenter.** He kept **friends who were rough fishermen,** and former **tax collectors.**...not the aristocrats and diplomats. He had to be **circumcised.** He had to **follow the law** he made for man. He was continually **mocked and threatened by the Jews.**

7. Jesus, as he was obeying throughout his life, suffered, thinking about what was waiting for him in the end.

He knew **his own family, friends, not just his foes, would turn against him.**

It is difficult to anticipate dealing with Covid-19...or anticipating writing a final exam, or waiting for a root canal, but imagine anticipating the **betrayal of family and friends** and then being **mocked by wicked men** and then being **nailed to a cross.** And when on the cross...Jesus had power to shut up his mockers forever...but he had to wait, for that was not his purpose...

8. After living an innocent, pure, and obedient life for you, Jesus then became that perfect sacrifice for sins.

1Peter 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Conclusion:

Jesus Christ was born as a real human being, with flesh and blood and reasonable human soul which were united to his Divinity. **He was perfectly pure from birth.** He **lived a perfectly holy life.** He had to be this way so he could be the proper Mediator on man's behalf to **make peace with God and man.** As Mediator, he went to the Father with the offer of his own blood. The blood of animals would not do! **Man's blood would not be good enough to save a dog.** Christ's blood could make peace with God for man and it was freely offered. **All formal charges against believers have been dropped and they don't have to be scared– ever.** Jesus is the Peace maker.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Jesus was your perfectly human Mediator who freed you from spiritual slavery and made peace with God for you. God promised you this in Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David, and he kept his word. You have a peace that lasts forever.

2. So how are you responding to him now that you have peace and fellowship again with the Father, and you can call on him anytime of the day for help? Can you say like Mary did: My soul magnifies the Lord my Savior? Can you praise him in the morning, at noon time, and in the evening? And more, can you bring more glory to him by telling others of Jesus and bringing them to worship him? I hope so. Share peace! Joy to the world, Peace has come. The world needs it...desperately. Governments can't do it...money can't...careers can't... Only Jesus ca!

Finally, **do you want peace with God.** Do you want to know this Christ? Read his Word. Talk to him. He hears the prayers of those who diligently cry out to him for help. And he always answers their prayers.