

# Heidelberg Catechism 36 – The Benefits of Christ’s Perfect Nature: Peace With God

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The only way that peace could come to the world was through the birth of a qualified Savior who would live and die for sinners. There was and is no other way. Yet, man has ignored God’s remedy and has tried, and continues to try to gain peace by his own actions, but with no success. The League of Nations 国家联盟 and then the United Nations 联合国 were expected to bring peace. But conflicts have not only continued, they have actually increased. There is no peace with the Muslims and African governments. Terror attacks are every where...even here in Toronto...18 terrorists were arrested. Communists are still trying for world domination. Israelis and the Palestinians are still fighting. Afghanistan is in a perpetual war. President Obama and others have tried to pacify their enemies thinking that they would gain peace. This was again done this past week. Other presidents have tried to bribe North Korea, Pakistan, and Syria to be good: We’ll give you free food if you stop making nuclear weapons. Many countries have put sanctions upon Iran. And to make peace in the Balkans, the US bombed the enemy into submission. There is no shortage of human ways to seek peace.

But, brothers and sisters, peace is here...and here to stay. Peace came through a unique man – whose uniqueness had to start 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 looks to him, and puts its faith in him, **it would not only find peace with each other, but it would find peace with God.** And that is the subject for instruction from God’s Word today: You get an introduction to the Peacemaker.

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

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

Q&A 36 How does the holy conception 感孕 and birth of Christ benefit you?

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 Christ 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.**

1 Timothy 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.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in **appearance as a man**, He humbled 压低 Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

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 person who was fit to do the task** of being your Mediator and making peace with God, and you desperately needed someone to do so. And isn’t it most important to have the right person in a mediation case? If you have an inexperienced free lawyer, you probably won’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 Christ. He has never lost a case! And the kicker is this: No one else in the history of the universe was fit to do it – God who took on a human body. You are privileged to have him as your advocate 代求者.

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

**1. Jesus Christ was qualified to be your mediator because he was perfectly innocent at birth and throughout his life.** No man, however good, is fit to represent you before God. No mere man could come into God’s presence. God’s response would always be: “How dare you come before me when you have sin of your own?” God wants innocence!

**2. The writer of Hebrews made it clear that the blood of animals only purified the offerer of the sacrifice ceremonially.** (Verse 13) But Jesus was the true “Lamb of God” and was without spot...without sin.  
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.

And Jesus Christ did not need to make any sacrifice for himself because he was always innocent – without spot.

Deuteronomy 17:1 "You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God a bull or sheep which has any blemish or defect, for that is an abomination憎恶 to the LORD your God.

3. You can see this innocence of Jesus Christ pre-figured in the Old Testament sacrificial system. Look at the purity of the sacrifices God required. Keep in mind that these were merely pictures- and yet they 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 picture Christ and his work.

Leviticus 1:3 'If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a **male without blemish**; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle会幕 of meeting before the LORD.

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:**

Jesus Christ offered himself...perfectly...and therefore did not have to sacrifice other animals. **This is why Roman Catholic Mass is one of the most perverted不正当 things in human history.** It attacks the sufficiency of Christ's death on the cross and attempts to re-sacrifice him daily. That perfect sacrifice for sins must not be repeated.

Leviticus 9:1 It came to pass on the eighth day that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel. 2 And he said to Aaron, "**Take for yourself** a young bull as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering, without blemish没有残疾, and offer them before the LORD.

**We can therefore say that Jesus Christ was your perfect Mediator for peace.**

### **For peace with God, Christ had to Live a Holy life to die in that Human Body.**

1. Jesus Christ not only had to be a pure man, born as a baby, but he had to follow the path of true holiness from childhood to death – a path that exemplified self-sacrifice – true love. Only by living that pure and holy life would Jesus Christ be fit to die for the sins of mankind. He had to die for man because the law certainly could not make peace with God. Man could not keep the law. The law was holy but man was imperfect. So a holy Jesus Christ had to go to the cross and be wrongly condemned as if he broke the law.

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.

2. Jesus Christ's punishment comes home clearly when you consider that God considered his Son to have become sin for his people. Grapple格斗 with this for a minute. God saw his holy Son as sinful for you! And Jesus Christ was only qualified to do this because he had no sin. He was born pure and continued to live a pure life.

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.

Love for the sinner moved the Lord to the cross. Love for the sinner moved the innocent Lord to take on a human body and live a holy life. The one who was perfectly satisfied in himself...subjected himself to obedience to the law because he wanted you to get the credit for that work. 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. It was as if you hand were put upon the Lord's head and your guilt passed from you to him...and then he was led to the cross to be killed. He was as your scapegoat!

**3. So the incarnation was not just when Jesus Christ was born. The incarnation continued for 33 ½ years.** Jesus Christ 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. Then all charges against you were dropped.

**4. Jesus Christ's incarnation included his 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 become dependent on a human family. 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, former tax collectors...not the aristocrats 贵族 and diplomats 外交官. He had to be circumcised. He had to follow the law he made for man. He was continually mocked by the Jews.

**5. Probably the worst sufferings of all, were that throughout his life he had to think of what was waiting for him in the end and the knowledge that his own family, friends...not just his foes...would turn against him.** It is difficult to anticipate a root canal...or anticipating writing a final exam of some sort...but imagine anticipating the betrayal of family and friends and then being mocked by wicked men and then nailed to a cross. And when on the cross...Jesus Christ had power to shut up his mockers forever...but he had to wait for that was not his purpose...

**6. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus Christ's life was precious and effective because he had born pure (innocently), he lived purely (holily), and he died as a 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:**

Yes, Jesus Christ was born as a real human being, with flesh and blood and reasonable human soul which were united to his Divinity 神性. He was perfectly pure. And Jesus Christ lived a perfectly holy life. He had to be born pure as God-man, and he had to live pure as God-man so that he could be the proper Mediator on your behalf to make peace with God for you. As your Mediator, he went to the Father with the offer of his own blood. The blood of animals would not do...your blood would not be good enough to save a dog. Christ's blood could save and it was freely offered to you. Now all formal charges against you have been dropped and you don't have to be scared— ever. God is indeed an awesome God.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus was your human Mediator who freed you from spiritual slavery. God promised you this in Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David, and he kept his word. 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? Share peace! Joy to the world, Peace has come. The world needs it...desperately. Governments cannot earn it.

Finally, no Christ, no salvation. Know Christ, know salvation. Trite 平凡, but true 真实. That's it. Do you want to know this Christ? Read his work. Talk to him. He hears the prayers of those who diligently cry out to him for help. And he always answers their prayers.