

7-5. *This covenant was differently administered in the time of the law, and in the time of the gospel: under the law it was administered by promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, the paschal lamb, and other types and ordinances delivered to the people of the Jews, all foreshadowing Christ to come; which were, for that time, sufficient and efficacious, through the operation of the Spirit, to instruct and build up the elect in faith in the promised Messiah, by whom they had full remission of sins, and eternal salvation; and is called the old Testament.*

7-6. *Under the gospel, when Christ, the substance, was exhibited, the ordinances in which this covenant is dispensed are the preaching of the Word, and the administration of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper: which, though fewer in number, and administered with more simplicity, and less outward glory, yet, in them, it is held forth in more fullness, evidence, and spiritual efficacy, to all nations, both Jews and Gentiles; and is called the new Testament. There are not therefore two covenants of grace, differing in substance, but one and the same, under various dispensations.*

CHRIST THE MEDIATOR

Is Jesus Human or Divine?

8-2. *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 fulness 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.*

(language taken from the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD)

Scripture Texts supporting the deity of Christ: Colossians 1, John 1, Hebrews 1, Philippians 2

How does Christ act as mediator for us?

8-8. *To all those for whom Christ hath purchased redemption, he doth certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same; making intercession for them, and revealing unto them, in and by the word, the mysteries of salvation; effectively persuading them by his Spirit to believe and obey, and governing their hearts by his word and Spirit; overcoming all their enemies by his almighty power and wisdom, in such manner, and ways, as are most consonant to his wonderful and unsearchable dispensation.*

Real Life→ How do you counsel a believer who struggles with doubt about forgiveness of his/her sin?

Romans 8:34

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Hebrews 4:15-16

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Westminster Confession of Faith – Chapters 6-8
www.pcaac.org (left side “confession of faith”)

THE FALL AND SIN

What is the doctrine of total depravity?

6-2. *By this sin they fell from their original righteousness and communion, with God, and so became dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the parts and faculties of soul and body.*

What is the doctrine of Original Sin?

6-3. *They being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed; and the same death in sin, and corrupted nature, conveyed to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation.*

6-4. *From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions.*

Most people think we are sinful because we do sinful things. But the Bible teaches us that we sin because we are sinners (have a corrupt nature).

How does sin affect us as Christians—once regenerated?

6-5. *This corruption of nature, during this life, doth remain in those that are regenerated; and although it be, through Christ, pardoned, and mortified; yet both itself, and all the motions thereof, are truly and properly sin.*

- Pollution – guilt is taken away (Is 6). No condemnation (Rom. 8:1).
- Power – we can resist sin (Titus 2:11-12). Keep in step with Spirit (Gal 5:25).
- Presence – still have the vestiges of it affecting us. It is a battle (Rom.7).

GOD’S COVENANT WITH MAN

What is a covenant?

Covenants as the structure of redemptive history.

