Of Christ the Mediator: The Person of Christ

Westminster Confession of Faith 8.1–3, 7

I. WCF 8.1: The Office(s) of Christ

A. The Covenant of Redemption: An intra-trinitarian and _____ covenant.

i. *The Sum of Saving Knowledge*: The way of salvation "is by faith in Jesus Christ… by virtue of, and according to the purpose of the Covenant of Redemption."

ii. Biblical data: Zechariah 6:13; Psalm 110; Hebrews 7:21–22; Luke 22:29.

B. The Office of Christ: The Mediator of the Covenant of Grace.

i. Jesus stands between God and mankind, _____ us to each other (1 Tim 2:5).

ii. _____ is the reason we need Christ to mediate between us and God.

C. What does Jesus do as our Mediator? The sub-offices listed in 8.1 explain.

i. Prophet, Priest, and _____; Head and Savior of his Church.

ii. Jesus is the Heir of all things (Heb 1:2) and _____ of the world (Acts 17:31).

II. WCF 8.2: The Two Natures of Christ

A. The Divine Nature of Christ: "The Son of God… being very and eternal God."

i. Scripture is clear that Jesus is truly God (John 1:1; 10:30).

ii. Our Mediator had to be God to give his sufferings _____ value (WLC 38)

B. The Human Nature of Christ: "The Son of God… did… take upon him man's nature."

i. Our Mediator had to be human to pay the _____ that humans owe (WLC 39)

ii. Scripture is clear that Jesus is truly human (Gen 3:15; John 1:14; 1 Cor 15:45).

iii. Jesus took on human nature through the miraculous virgin _____.

C. The Union of Christ's Divine and Human Natures in His One Person.

i. This is called the _____ or personal union (hypostasis = person).

ii. Christ has 2 natures in 1 person; and in the Trinity, there is 1 nature & 3 persons.

iii. Jesus is the *only* Mediator between God & men, because he is the only _____

III. WCF 8.3: The Fitness of Christ's Humanity to His Office

A. This section explains how Jesus's human nature was qualified to accomplish redemption.

i. First, Jesus wasn't a mere human; his divine nature equipped him for his office.

ii. Second, Jesus was filled with the _____, equipping him for his office.

B. The purpose: "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."

i. Christ is able to mediate because he acts as our _____ (takes on our debts).

C. Another reason Jesus is fully equipped for this office is that the Father called him to it.

i. Heb 5:4–5: "No one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by _____."

IV. WCF 8.7: The Communication of Properties

A. The attributes of Christ's divine and human natures are communicated to his person.

i. So, Scripture can describe him with a divine title doing human things, or vice versa.

ii. "They would not have crucified [human] the Lord of glory [God]" (1 Cor 2:8).

iii. "No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven [divine action/ attribute], the Son of Man [human title]" (John 3:13).

B. Lutherans say that the attributes of each nature are communicated to each other.

i. They claim that his human nature received the divine attribute of omnipresence.

ii. This originates from their view of the _____.

C. Why does this matter? Historically, it helps to explain the differences among Protestants.

i. But theologically, the Lutheran view is arbitrarily inconsistent.

ii. In the Luther view, Christ is no longer like us in every way.

iii. The Lutheran view threatens our doctrines of divine simplicity & unchangeability.

Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 8, Sections 1–3 & 7
Of Christ the Mediator

1. 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.

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

3. 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 fulness 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.

7. Christ, in the work of mediation, acts according to both natures, by each nature doing that which is proper to itself; yet, by reason of the unity of the person, that which is proper to one nature is sometimes in Scripture attributed to the person denominated by the other nature.