

From Your Pastor

A Study of the Shorter Catechism

WSC Question 23: What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

Answer: Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation (Acts 3:21,22; Heb. 12:25 with 2 Cor. 13:3; Heb. 5:5,6,7; Heb. 7:25; Isa. 9:6,7; Matt. 21:5; Ps. 2:8-11).

An explanation: Jesus Christ was anointed with the Holy Spirit to fulfill His mission of salvation for His elect (Isa. 42:1; cf. 11:1ff; Acts 10:38). The Father ordained Christ Jesus to take upon Himself three important offices (Isa. 9:6-7; Matt. 3:16-17; Heb. 5:1ff), and Christ Jesus took these offices willingly to become for all believers the wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption of God on their behalf in an estate of humiliation (1 Cor. 1:30). This estate of humiliation is summarized in Philippians 2:6-8: *“...Though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*

In His estate of humiliation, as God’s Servant-Son (Phil. 2:5-8), the Lord Jesus was anointed by the Spirit to act as a perfect prophet, priest and king. As a prophet, Jesus came preaching God’s Word to His people (Acts 10:38); as priest, He offered Himself up to God as a perfect sacrifice (Heb. 9:14), and was a servant to men (Mark 10:45); as King, He proclaimed that the long-awaited and anticipated Kingdom of God had dawned in Himself (Matt. 12:28; Luke 1:3; John 18:36-37).

Upon completion of His perfect ministry for His own in His life, death, resurrection and ascension, He was exalted by the Father as a sympathizing and powerful Mediator full of the Spirit and grace to equip His people (Matt. 28:18-20; Phil. 2:9-11; Acts 2:33ff; 5:31). In this exalted state, as a prophet, Jesus continues to speak from heaven to His own through the Word of God by His Spirit (Heb. 12:25); as a priest, Jesus lives to ever intercede for His own (Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34); as King He subdues our hearts, and rules and reigns over heaven and earth (Matt. 9:4; Luke 24:32; Phil. 2:9-11). All authority has been given to Jesus Christ, and this will be fully manifested and realized upon His return (1 Cor. 15:24-28).

The Bible teaches that all of God’s promises are “Yes!” and “Amen!” in Christ (2 Cor. 1:20). Puritan forefather John Flavel listed the practical benefits of Christ’s ministry. All of God’s promises of illumination, guidance and direction flow out of Christ’s prophetic office; all of God’s promises of pardon and peace flow out of Christ’s priestly office; all of God’s promises of defense, protection, and deliverances flow out of His kingly office. Let us rejoice in our Great Savior and Prophet, Priest, and King!

Prayer: Thank you, kind King, who bears the world upon your shoulders, and before whom the world will bow in awe and worship! Thank you, Wonderful Counselor who speaks God’s Word to us. Thank you, Prince of Peace for bringing your own back to God in full reconciliation and peace through your blood! Let me live for you in grateful and faithful obedience!

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Biggs

*“A Sanctified imagination will make every creature and created thing
a ladder to heaven.”*

- Richard Sibbes