

# Incarnation: A Man in the Middle

We see that our whole salvation and all its parts are comprehended in Christ.

We should therefore take care not to derive the least portion of it from anywhere else.

If we seek salvation, we are taught by the very name of Jesus that it is "of him."

If we seek any other gifts of the Spirit, they will be found in his anointing.

If we seek strength, it lies in his dominion;

if purity, in his conception;

if gentleness, it appears in his birth.

For by his birth he was made like us in all respects that he might learn to feel our pain.

If we seek redemption, it lies in his passion;

if acquittal, in his condemnation;

if remission of the curse, in his cross;

if satisfaction, in his sacrifice;

if purification, in his blood;

if reconciliation, in his descent into hell;

if mortification of the flesh, in his tomb;

if newness of life, in his resurrection;

if immortality, in the same;

if inheritance of all blessings, in his Kingdom;

if untroubled expectation of judgment, in the power given to him to judge.

In short, since rich store of every kind of good abounds in him, let us drink our fill from this fountain, and from no other. (**Institutes 2.16.19**)

*The whole of our salvation is comprehended in Christ. And in the INCARNATION of God the Son we see some aspects more clearly and more radiantly. One of those aspects is seen as we consider Christ as our Mediator.*

**1 Timothy 2:1-6 ESV** [1] First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, [2] for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. [3] This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, [4] who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. [5] **For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,** [6] who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

*\*Christmas Stories\**

## We have a problem!

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*God and men are estranged.*

Men hate God.

**Romans 8:7-8 ESV** [7] For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. [8] Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⇒ For most people, our relationship doesn't feel this way

God is wrathful towards men.

**Romans 1:18 ESV** [18] For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ⇒ Again, not necessarily how we feel

What has brought about this state of affairs? Sin.

**Romans 3:23 ESV** [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

↪ WE DON'T THINK MUCH ABOUT SIN @ XMAS

*A lack of peace at Christmas time*

- Psychology Today notes a significant increase in depression
- Loneliness, sense of futility, discontented, relational conflict
- Why? Sin does honour any kind of truce at Christmas time; WW1 Christmas truce with soccer games
- We let our guard down, we forget the reality of our lives, we forget the reality of why God the Son became incarnate
- Be vigilant! We never stop fighting sin; ingratitude, greed, envy, pride, selfishness

The problem has a solution.

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**Conflict Resolution at Work For Dummies; How to mediate in the work place**

**Discover how to mediate a conflict in your workplace by following a set process and asking the right questions.**

First Step: Understand the person you're in conflict with.

**What would you like to see happen? What does that look like for you?**

Second Step: Determine how the situation can be rectified.

**What would it take for us to be able to move forward? How do we get there?**

Third Step: Be reconciled.

**Come together again.**

*Use these 3 steps as a framework.*

The solution requires a mediator.

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A mediator is a go-between who goes between two estranged parties.

Greek word literally means "man in the middle."

In a conflict between two men, a man will serve as a mediator. But what, or who, is required to mediate between a man and God?

A God/man is necessary for mediation to occur between God and man.

First Step: Understand the person you're in conflict with...God.

**John 14:8-9 ESV [8] Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." [9] Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"**

**Hebrews 1:3 ESV [3] He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature,**

*These things—whenever has seen me, the exact imprint—we said about the in-fleshed Son*

*If we want to see and understand and know God, we must look to the incarnate Son*

Second Step: Determine how the situation can be rectified...sins must be forgiven.  
Sin requires judgment.

Jesus, as a true man, was the perfect substitute for men.

**2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV [21]** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. *⇒ Jesus became our sin.*

Judgment for sin is death.

Jesus, a truly God, was the perfect sacrifice for men.

**1 Peter 2:22-24 ESV [22]** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. [23] When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. [24] He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

**Hebrews 10:12 ESV [12]** But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

*We needed a perfect substitute to pay for our sin*

*Jesus was perfect; he committed no sin because he was God*

*Jesus was a substitute; he was a man ⇒ This is where we see the massive impact of the INCARNATION*

Third Step: Be reconciled...Sins are forgiven, wrath averted.

Jesus, fully God and fully man, the incarnate Son of God, mediated sin for us

**Colossians 2:9 ESV [9]** For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

So that we can be reconciled to God

**Colossians 1:21-22 ESV [21]** And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, [22] he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

GOSPEL...Come together again!

- ① Understand God
- ② Sin
- ③ Mediator - God/man
- ④ BE RECONCILED