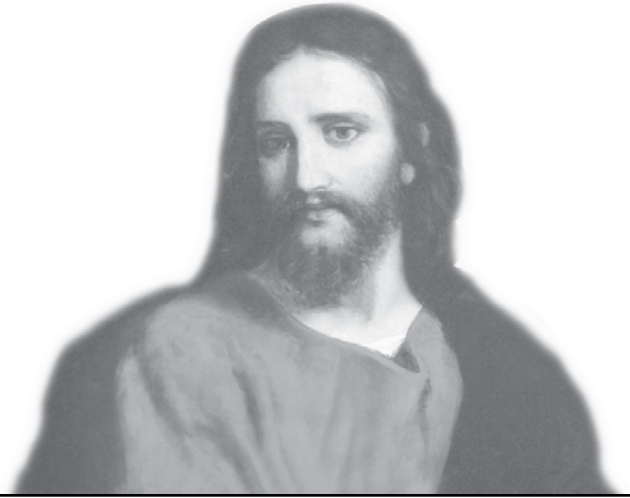


DISCOVER

the Joy of Christ



Jesus is the Mediator between God and humanity.

Why is it so important that we see Jesus as the mediator between God and humanity? The fact that Jesus is the *Son-of-God-come-among-us* profoundly affects our lives. Let's take a closer look.

Jesus is the bridge. When Adam and Eve fell in Original Sin they dragged humanity down with them. Sin entered the world resulting in a great divide between God and us. With sin came death because we no longer had access to the Tree of Life. We needed someone to cross that great divide and renew humanity by bridging the gap. Jesus is the bridge, the mediator, who does this.

The Letter to the Hebrews gives two very clear pictures of Jesus. First, Jesus is God. As the Second Person of the Holy Trinity He is "the refulgence of God's glory, the very imprint of His being [and] who sustains all things by His mighty word." (Hebrews 1:3). Second, Jesus is human. He is "able to sympathize with our weakness and has similarly been tested in every way yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15).

This coming together of God and man in Jesus of Nazareth makes Him the true mediator, the one who is both God and man at the same time and therefore is able to bring about reconciliation between humanity and God. He overcomes sin and death which lie between God and us. Where Adam dragged humanity down, Jesus lifts humanity back up. Where Adam lost access to the Tree of Life, Jesus hung on a tree to give us life.

Why it matters. St. Irenaeus once remarkably wrote, "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." We are meant to feel "fully alive," to reach our full potential, and enjoy a right relationship with God. Because Jesus Christ is God we can trust in His promises and trust in His power to deliver on what He said. With Him we can overcome anything which stops us from being who we truly are meant to be.

Because Jesus is human He has compassion on our weaknesses. He knows our strengths and weaknesses. As Jesus ate and drank with sinners, the lowly, and marginalized of His time, so now He continues to hold out His hand to us no matter what our state in life.

His death brings life. With Jesus the relationship with God is restored. Jesus does this by being both God and human, bridging the gap between the two. The Letter to the Hebrews calls Him a great new High Priest who comes before God the Father and offers sacrifice on behalf of all the people. This does not mean we won't continue to have struggles, but it means that God's power, available through His grace, is there to hold us up and save us. After all, the name Jesus means "God Saves."

