

New City Catechism Class

Week Twenty-Two

Q22: Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

A22: That in human nature He might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that He might sympathize with our weaknesses.

Hebrews 2:17 “Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- Is this a common question discussed among Christians? Why or why not?
- What is our cultural attitude toward these kinds of questions?
- Why does the question use the word “must”?
- Why does the question use the word “truly”?

Discuss the Scripture:

- Why does this passage begin with “therefore”? What is the contextual connection?
- Discuss the phrase, “He had to be made like His brothers in every respect.”
 - Why “had to”?
 - What is meant by “made like His brothers”?
 - What is meant by “in every respect”?
- What reasons does the Apostle give for this? How might this passage connect to Exodus 34:6-7 or Psalm 145?
- What does it mean to “make propitiation”?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- What is the connection between this passage and the phrase “in human nature”?
- What is the connection between this passage and the phrase “on our behalf”?
- Why did Jesus need to be truly human to fulfill the role of high priest?
See Hebrews 4:14-5:3.
- Why did Jesus need to be perfectly obedient to fulfill this role? To sympathize with our weaknesses?
- Why did Jesus need to be “faithful” to “suffer the punishment for *human* sin”?
- Why do these truths make it absolutely necessary to hold to the exclusivity of Christ for redemption?

Do these things interest you? In what ways do your interests reveal the deepest affections of your heart?

Why is it a comfort to us to know that Jesus understands?