

New City Catechism Class

Week Twenty-Three

Q23: Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

A23: That because of His divine nature His obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that He would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death.

Acts 2:24 “God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.” (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- With what do we struggle more—Jesus’ humanity or Jesus’ deity?
- Why do you think this is?
- Why does the question use the word “truly”?
- What are some common views held by those who reject the deity of Christ?

Discuss the Scripture:

- What imagery is evoked by the phrase “loosing the pangs of death”?
- Why was it not possible for Christ to be held by death?
(Discuss Chrysostom’s comments.)
- What does the resurrection of Christ prove (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:16)?
- What is the connection between Christ’s resurrection and our forgiveness?
Cf. Matthew 9:2-6. What does this say about the person of Christ?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- Why was it necessary for Christ to have a divine nature in order to make His obedience perfect? His suffering?
- Why was this necessary to make His obedience effective? His suffering?
- Why was it necessary for Christ to have a divine nature in order to bear the righteous anger of God against sin?
- How does the resurrection prove that He did this?
- Why do these truths make it absolutely necessary to hold to the exclusivity of Christ for redemption?

*If Jesus is God, how ought we to respond to His teaching?
Does the reality that Jesus is God affect your responsiveness to Him?*