



Jesus is The Way

Understanding Jesus as Mediator

1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

How is Jesus described in 1 Timothy 2:5?

Jesus is described as God, Mediator, Man and Christ.

What does it mean there is one God?

There is only the God revealed to us in the creation, the Scriptures and in Jesus Himself.

Do most people believe there is one God?

- No, many religions believe in multiple gods as pagans: New Agers, Hindus, Mormons and many of the world's religions teach.
- Even people who think of themselves as non-religious have made idols of money, fame, pursuit of pleasure, etc.

What are idols?

We usually think of idols as statues which people worship as gods but they are really things that are created which take the place of God. For example money can become an idol if you are trusting in it to be your salvation.

What does God think of idolatry?

It is sin and He hates it. Indeed it is forbidden and listed first in the ten commandments:

Exodus 20:3-6 - "You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

How do things like money, fame, and pursuit of pleasure become idols?

They can replace God as your reason for living. You come to trust in them as your savior.

But Christians believe in the Trinity, why isn't this three gods?

The term Trinity really means triune Godhead. That there is one God as Scripture proclaims but that God is manifest in three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. None of the three persons of the Godhead act independently of the

other, they all have the same nature as God and they act with one accord but each has distinct roles. This is not something we can fully comprehend but accept it because this is what God has revealed to us about Himself in His Word.

What is a mediator?

One that mediates, especially one that reconciles differences between disputants.

To mediate means to reconcile differences. What differences are there between God and man?

He is the Creator, we are the created, He is eternal, we are mortal, He is sinless, we are sinful, He is Almighty, we are weak...

Why do we need a mediator between God and us?

Because our sin separates us from God...

Isaiah 64:7 - And there is no one who calls on Your name, who stirs himself up to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us, and have consumed us because of our iniquities.

Why is being separated from God a problem?

Because God created us to have a relationship with Him and our being separate from Him challenges His will.

What is mediated between God and us?

- The problem that is resolved between God and men is our separation from Him as a result of our sin.
- A mediator supposes a controversy. Sin had made a quarrel between us and God.

How is Jesus our mediator?

- Jesus is the one who makes it possible for men to have a relationship with God.
- Jesus Christ is a Mediator who undertakes to make peace, to bring God and man together, in the nature of an umpire or arbitrator who resolves the conflict between us.

Are there any other mediators between God and men besides Jesus?

No, note that it says there is one Mediator between God and men. This is reinforced in Scripture...

Acts 4:12 - Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Jesus Himself also declared that the only way we may have a relationship with God is through Him...

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

How do religions of the world show they don't accept the One Mediator concept?

For example, Catholics advocate prayers to the Mother of Jesus and to other saints, and priests represent men before God.

Who are the priests of God today?

We no longer need priests because each believer may go directly to Jesus the Father and Holy Spirit through Jesus, thus believers are priests... [Jesus] *has made us kings and priests to His God and Father* (Rev 1:6)

To mediate is to resolve or settle (differences) by working with all the conflicting parties as in mediate a labor-management dispute. How did Jesus mediate the conflict between God and us?

Jesus paid the penalty for our sin that is death, He died in our place thus making a way for our sins to be forgiven so that we may have a relationship with God.

Is the labor dispute a good analogy in the dispute between God and man due to man's sinful condition?

Yes, as labor disputes are resolved with both parties making a concession, so too will the dispute between God and men... God has already done His part, Jesus humbled Himself and came as a man to make a way for our sins to be forgiven. What is required now for a resolution of the conflict between men and God is for men to respond by putting their trust in Him and yielding their lives to Him.

Is this a fair trade, yielding your life to the Lord in return for having your sins forgiven?

Absolutely! Especially when you consider the consequences of not having your sin forgiven. It is pretty much a no-brainer: the few years of your remaining mortal life invested following Jesus in return for an eternity in heaven. It makes no logical sense why anyone would risk eternal damnation just to live the few remaining years of their life however they want to.

There is an old movie theme where one man saves the life of another, usually an Indian or some other person from a non-westernized culture who then becomes their servant for life. Usually the movie makes light of this concept, minimizing it to make it seem ridiculous but it is really a picture of how we should respond to Jesus saving us from spiritual death.

How does Jesus' death on the cross in our place resolve the conflict between God and people?

God sees that the penalty for sin has been paid and we are free to have a relationship with Him. Indeed, this is one of the meanings of mediate, to have a relation to two differing persons or things. But God is not going to force anyone into a relationship they do not want. Indeed, you can not really have a relationship unless both parties are willing... God is willing, the question is are we?

What does it mean to have a relationship with God?

To know Him personally as one would know a friend or a brother.

Prov 18:24 - there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

To commune, or communicate with Him (we speak to Him in prayer, He speaks to us in many ways but principally through His Word).

Hebrews 1:1-2 - God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

He is eternal, so to truly know Him we must have an eternal relationship with Him...

John 17:3 - "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

To mediate means to intervene between two or more disputants in order to bring about an agreement, a settlement, or a compromise. Which did Jesus bring about, an agreement, a settlement, or a compromise?

A settlement best describes what Jesus brought about.

How did Jesus bring about a settlement between God and man?

Jesus made peace between God and men when before there was strife due to human pride and rebellion...

Ephesians 2:14 - He... has broken down the middle wall of separation

Jesus has resolved the enmity between God and man through His sacrificial death in our place on the cross.

To mediate also means to bring about a settlement by working with all the conflicting parties. How did Jesus work with all the conflicting parties?

- Jesus has two natures, He is at the same time 100% God and 100% man. This makes Him uniquely qualified to bridge the gap between God and man.
- The Old Testament patriarch Job did not know about Jesus yet when he lamented about the absence of such a person:

Job 9:33 - Nor is there any mediator between us, who may lay his hand on us both.

It is Jesus who is able to lay hands on both God and man. We will be able to talk with Him just as I'm talking with you now...

I Jn 3:2 - Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Our communion is limited by our mortal nature which we still have but when we are resurrected, we will be just like Jesus is now...

1 Cor 13:12 - For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

To mediate also means to effect or convey as an intermediate agent or mechanism. How does Jesus act as an intermediate agent or mechanism?

Jesus is our Great High Priest who both represents us before God and represents God to us...

Heb 4:14 - Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

We do not have to go through human priests to get to God as the Hebrew people did before Jesus during Old Testament times. Now we can go directly to God through Jesus.

Consider Satan's role as accuser of the brethren...

Rev 12:10 - Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

If the Devil is a prosecuting attorney laboring before God the Judge to see us condemned, what role does Jesus have?

Jesus is our defense attorney, or advocate who is the One who represents us before God...

I Jn 2:1 - My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Jesus stands between Satan the accuser and God the Judge on our behalf...

Rom 8:34 - Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Why do we usually pray to God in Jesus' name?

The example prayer that Jesus gave us was to pray to God the Father (Matthew 6) and He said we should pray in His name...

John 14:13 - "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

Jesus is the One who made it possible for us to go to God so it is only right that we should pray in His name. For that matter, whatever we do, we should do in Jesus' name...

Col 3:17 - And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

What do the following verses have to say about sin and what Jesus as our Mediator did about that sin? (Romans 3:25, 5:1-2, 5:8; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:13)

Rom 3:25 - whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

- Jesus gave Himself as a sacrifice to block God's view of (pass over) our sin.

Rom 5:1-2 - Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- Jesus made it possible for us to have peace with God.
- Jesus has given us access to God's grace.

Rom 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- Jesus demonstrated His love for us when He died for us.

Gal 3:22 - But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

- Jesus has given eternal life (the promise) to those who trust in (have faith in) Him.

Eph 2:13 - But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

- Jesus has made it possible for us to be near to God.

Is the separation between God and people the same for all?

Yes, some people can throw a baseball further than others but if you are in Houston and the World Series is in New York City, we each would fall short by the same magnitude.

Why do some people refuse to trust Christ as Savior?

- They really want to be the one in charge of their life.
- They do not want to let go of their sin.
- They think they can "luck out" and miss the consequences.
- They think they'll miss out on something if they turn their life over to Him.

What should you say to an unsaved friend?

Why don't you just give God a try and see if He is faithful to His Word?

- God loves you and will not require you to do anything that is not in your best interest.
- Sin may be fun for a season but God can not be mocked, sin will eventually catch up to you.
- God must be faithful to His Word, there will be no avoiding the consequences of sin at the judgement, thank God that trusting in Jesus will keep us from the greatest consequence: spiritual death.
- All good things come from God. I have found that He does not withhold what is good from us. And He knows what is good for us.