

A banner with a light beige background and a dark green border. The text "Catechism: Foundations of the Faith" is written in a dark green, serif font. The background of the banner shows a wooden surface, a green book, and a portion of a typewriter keyboard.

Catechism: Foundations of the Faith

Why the God-Man?

Key idea:

Question 21: What sort of Redeemer and Mediator is needed to bring us back to God?

One who is perfectly righteous, truly human and truly God.

Key text:

Hebrews 4:14–16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 7:23–28

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. ²⁶ Such a high priest meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Key points:

1. Because of our sin, we need a Priest to serve as Redeemer and Mediator.
2. To be the Redeemer and Mediator for sinful humanity, someone must be perfectly righteous.

3. To be the Mediator between God and humanity, someone must be fully and truly human and fully and truly God.
4. Animal sacrifices had to be repeated over and over because they could never really remove our sin, but only temporarily cover it over in anticipation of the sacrifice of Christ.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. Note: this is BRCC Catechism Question 21. It is the first of five questions in our catechism dealing with how Jesus is our Redeemer and Mediator. For a full study of this topic, refer to Questions 21-25 in the [Study edition of our Catechism](#).
2. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
3. As I read through the question and answer (see the theme above), what is my initial response? What stands out to me the most in this answer?
4. Why is it necessary for the Redeemer to be both God and human?
5. How can One Person be both God and Human?
6. What does it mean to say that Jesus is fully and truly human?
7. What about animal sacrifices? Why can't an animal pay for our sin? Even if animals could pay for our sin, why would they still be unqualified to serve as our Redeemer?
8. What does it mean that Jesus is truly and fully God? What if Jesus is not fully God, but only the highest of God's creatures? Could He pay the infinite debt we owe to God?
9. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to call?