

A banner with a background of a wooden desk, a green book, a typewriter, and a yellow notepad. The text "Catechism: Foundations of the Faith" is written in a dark green, serif font on a light yellow rectangular background.

Catechism: Foundations of the Faith

Our Perfectly Righteous Redeemer

Key idea:

Question 23: Why must the Redeemer be perfectly righteous?

The Redeemer must be perfectly righteous so that His obedience and sacrifice in our place will be acceptable to God.

Key text:

Romans 5:19

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Hebrews 2:17

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

1 Peter 1:18–19

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Key points:

1. The Redeemer must be truly human so that He can stand in our place and fulfill our obligations to God.
2. The Redeemer must obey and be sacrificed in our place so that our sins can be forgiven and we can be restored to our relationship with God.
3. Jesus is the spotless Lamb of God Who took our sin upon Himself, bearing the punishment we were due so that we might be saved!
4. The requirement for the Redeemer to be perfect, without sin, is not arbitrary but is rooted in the eternal, unchanging nature and character of God.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. Note: this is BRCC Catechism Question 23. It is the third 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. How does Jesus stand in my place? How is this related to my status before God?
5. Why did the Old Testament law require that sacrificial animals had to be perfect, without defects or blemishes? What does this teach me about the requirements for the redeemer in the New Covenant?
6. What if Jesus had sinned prior to dying for us? Could He have still died in our place so that our sins would be forgiven?
7. Our catechism states that Scripture reveals God's character as being summarized as being perfect in holiness, love, and integrity. Why are three of these aspects important for understanding God's character in a proper way rather than distorting it?
8. How is God's character distorted if I remove or minimize His holiness? His love? His integrity (including both His truthfulness, His faithfulness, and His unchangeableness)? Which of these three am I most tempted to reduce or minimize? Which one do I understand the least?
9. When I reflect on Jesus Perfect Righteousness and His atoning life and death in my place, how does this affect me? What emotions does it prompt? How does it change my view of my status before God?
10. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to pray for and call?