

Westminster Shorter Catechism 22*How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?*

Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

I. The Ministry of Christ Our Redeemer**A. Introduction**

- 1) Zacharias is inspired by the Spirit to speak (v 67)
- 2) His first words are that of Adoration (v 68)
 - a) What is it to *bless* God?
 - b) All truth about God should lead us to bless God.

B. The Ministry of Christ Described in the Text

- 1) The Summary: *He has visited and redeemed His people* (v 68; Ex 3:16-17)
- 2) How has He visited us and redeemed us?
 - a) *And has raised up a horn of salvation for us* (v 69-70; Psa 18:2, 132:17; Ezk 34:23-24; Psa 89:34-35)
 - b) *That we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us* (v 71) — Now the question is, which enemies?
 - c) *To perform the mercy* (v 72; Ex 2:23b-25)
- 3) Why has He redeemed us?
 - a) *To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him* (v 47; Ex 8:1)
 - b) How can we to serve the Lord our God, who has need of nothing?
 - c) Why do we serve the Lord our God, when He has need of nothing?
 - d) What is the quality of our service to the Lord our God?
 - i. *Without fear* (v 74b) — Why is it fitting we serve the Lord without fear?
 - Fear happens when our focus is on ourselves rather than God

- Consider the unfittingness of what fear causes as it would relate to our service of God: Fight, Flight, Freeze
- *Answering the Objection: But shouldn't we fear God?*

ii. *In holiness and righteousness before Him* (v 75a)**iii.** *All the days of our life* (v 75b) — *Answering the Objection: Isn't this then just a new slavery?* Differences between service of God and slavery to Pharaoh.**C. Uses from the Text**

- 1) God's Word is the primary instructor on the manner of blessing God
 - a) To know His promises
 - b) To give to us the vocabulary of praise (Col 3:16)
- 2) God's Works are the primary instructor on the occasion of blessing God
- 3) Where is your strength? It must be in the Lord!

II. The Ministry of John the Baptist**A. The Ministry of John described in the Text**

- 1) To be a Prophet — *And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest* (v 76a; Mal 3:1)
- 2) As preparative for the ministry of Christ — *For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways* (v 76b-77; Isa 40:1-5)
- 3) Reflecting again on the ministry of Christ (vv 78-79)
 - a) *Through the tender mercy of our God* —
 - b) *With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us* (Zech 6:12-13; Jer 23:5-6; Mal 4:2-3)
 - c) *To give light to those who is in darkness and the shadow of death*
 - d) *To guide our feet into the way of peace*

B. Uses from the Text

- 1) The God-Centeredness of the Christian life
- 2) What the advent of our Lord did and does
 - a) Removes ignorance and excuse
 - b) Removes sin (Mal 3:2-4)