



Only One Mediator

The Bible presents a clear and uncompromising truth: only through Jesus Christ can humanity be reconciled to God, and no alternative path, philosophy, religious system, or spiritual figure can bridge the separation caused by sin. Jesus Himself declares, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6). This is not a suggestion or one option among many. It is an exclusive claim rooted in His divine identity. The apostle Paul reinforces this truth, writing, “For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5). Even the Old Testament anticipates this singular mediator, pointing forward to the coming Messiah who would bear the sins of the world (Isaiah 53:5-6). While the world insists that there are many ways to reach God, the Bible consistently teaches that reconciliation is found only in the atoning work of Christ. Humanity’s attempts to reach God through rituals, saints, or human mediators fall short because sin created a separation only God Himself could repair. Jesus, fully God and fully man, stands uniquely qualified to restore what was broken, making Him the only bridge between a holy God and sinful humanity. This foundational truth is the heart of the Gospel and the cornerstone of our Christian faith, and it remains unchanged regardless of cultural trends or human opinion.

When Jesus hung on the cross and declared, “It is finished!” (John 19:30), He was announcing the completion of the redemptive work necessary for humanity’s salvation. At that exact moment, something extraordinary happened in the Jewish Temple. “The veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom” (Matthew 27:51). This veil, thick, heavy, and towering, separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies, the inner sanctuary where God’s presence dwelled. Only the Jewish high priest could enter, and only once a year on the Day of Atonement, bringing sacrificial blood to atone for the sins of the people (Leviticus 16:2-34). The temple itself was designed to illustrate God’s holiness and humanity’s separation from Him. The veil served as a physical and symbolic barrier, declaring that sinful humanity could not freely enter God’s presence. But when Jesus died, God tore the veil from top to bottom, demonstrating that the barrier was removed not by human effort but by divine action. Jesus’ sacrifice fulfilled the entire sacrificial system, rendering the yearly priestly ritual unnecessary. No longer would a human priest enter on behalf of the people. Christ, our eternal High Priest (Hebrews 9:11-12), entered once and for all into the heavenly sanctuary, securing eternal redemption. The torn veil stands as a permanent declaration that access to God is now open through Jesus Christ alone.

Because of Jesus’ finished work, the Bible teaches that Christians today do not need earthly mediators, confessionals, or prayers to saints to receive forgiveness or access to God. The Bible commands us to confess our sins directly to God. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and

righteous to forgive us our sins” (1 John 1:9). Hebrews boldly states, “Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace” (Hebrews 4:16), something impossible under the old covenant but now available through Christ Jesus. Praying to saints is also forbidden because God’s Word clearly teaches that all of mankind apart from Jesus are sinners (Romans 3:23), and God commands, “You shall not make for yourself an idol or any likeness of what is in heaven above” (Exodus 20:4). Saints cannot hear prayers, forgive sins, or mediate before God. Jesus alone intercedes for us. “He always lives to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25). He alone sits at the right hand of the Father (Romans 8:34), and He alone is the mediator (1 Timothy 2:5). The early church never practiced praying to saints or confessing sins to a *human mediator* behind a “veil” because they understood that Christ’s sacrifice granted direct access to God. They did confess their sins to one another (James 5:16) but this practice did not emulate a veil in which forgiveness is found when communicated to the individual on the other side of the veil. The Gospel frees us from relying on human systems and invites us into a personal, direct relationship with Jesus, who alone has the authority to forgive sins (Mark 2:7-10). Any practice that adds mediators, whether saints, rituals, or confessionals, contradicts the clear teaching of God’s Word and diminishes the sufficiency of Christ’s finished work.

This truth carries a sobering warning. To ignore what Jesus accomplished on the cross is to reject the only means of salvation God has provided. When Jesus said, “It is finished,” He meant that nothing more could be added. No rituals, no human mediators, and no additional sacrifices. The tearing of the Temple veil stands as God’s own testimony that the old system is over and that access to Him is now found only through His Son. As Christians, we must be careful not to elevate human traditions, religious systems, or man-made practices above the Word of God. The Bible warns repeatedly against following the doctrines of men (Mark 7:7-8) and urges us to cling to the truth delivered once for all. The call today is clear. Return to the simplicity and purity of devotion to Jesus. Do not rely on substitutes when the Jesus Himself invites us to come directly to Him. The Good News is truly good because it is simple. Jesus finished the work, and we are invited to receive it. The challenge for every Christian is then to pursue a personal relationship with Jesus, seeking Him daily, trusting His Word, and walking in the freedom He purchased with His own blood.

1. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6). How does this verse challenge the idea that human traditions or religious systems can bring us closer to God?

2. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees saying, “This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me” (Mark 7:6-8). What traditions today risk making your lips sound spiritual while your heart drifts from Christ?

3. “There is one God, and one mediator also between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5). How does this verse confront the practice of relying on human mediators, confessionals, or spiritual substitutes?

4. When the veil was torn, God opened direct access to Himself (Matthew 27:51). What does this event reveal about God’s desire for personal relationship rather than ritualistic systems or practices?

5. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us” (1 John 1:9). Why do many Christians still feel the need to confess through a human system instead of directly to God?

6. “Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace” (Hebrews 4:16). What traditions or habits keep you from approaching God with confidence and intimacy?

7. Jesus said the Father seeks those who worship “in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24). How does this redefine worship beyond rituals, physical buildings, or inherited customs?

8. “You shall not make for yourself an idol or any likeness of what is in heaven above” (Exodus 20:4-5). How can religious symbols and practices, statues of saints, or traditions unintentionally become modern forms of idolatry?

9. “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). How does this truth challenge the idea that spiritual growth comes through external rituals rather than internal transformation?

10. Jesus said, “Abide in Me... for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:4-5). What practices or traditions distract you from daily abiding in Christ?

11. “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable...” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). How does this passage challenge you to evaluate every tradition through Scripture rather than the other way around?

12. “Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith” (2 Corinthians 13:5). What personal traditions, routines, or religious habits might be masking your lack of genuine relationship with Jesus?