

Orthodoxy - The Redeemer is God

New City Catechism Q.23 Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

Answer: That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that he would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death.

God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. - Acts 2:24

The reason people reject Jesus Christ as God is for the same reason people trust in Jesus Christ as God!

People reject Jesus because he judged people as sinful, and only he, as God, had authority to forgive sins. People trust in Jesus because they know they are sinners, and only he, as God, can forgive them of their sins.

People reject Jesus because he didn't sin, even though he was tempted as every other person. He is better than all.

People trust in Jesus because he was righteous through and through. They need someone better than themselves to live for them the life they can never live.

People reject Jesus because he lived a life suffering for others, and the God they have constructed for themselves would never serve others by suffering for them. People trust in Jesus because they see the love of God toward them as he served them by suffering for them.

People reject Jesus because he died on the cross, and everyone who dies on a tree is cursed of God. People trust in Jesus because God demonstrated his love for them in his substitutionary death in their place, becoming a curse for them, and satisfying God's wrath in their place.

People reject Jesus because he overcame death by being raised from the dead. He alone can give life and this is unacceptable to people who believe they can make a life for themselves.

People trust in Jesus because he was raised from the dead taking away death as the penalty of sin for them, and justifying them before God in his own righteousness. He takes away their greatest fear, death, and gives them a life eternal with their God.

There are only two options. Based upon the clear claims of the Scriptures that the man, Jesus Christ, is the Son of God (John 1:1, 14; 10:30; Colossians 2:9 for example), we must either reject him or trust in him. There is no middle ground. C.S. Lewis wrote in *The Problem of Pain*, "Either he was a raving lunatic of an unusually abominable type, or else he was, and is, precisely what he said. There is no middle way. If the records make the first hypothesis unacceptable, you must submit to the second. And if you do that, all else that is claimed by Christians becomes credible - that this Man, having been killed, was yet alive, and that his death, in some manner incomprehensible to human thought, has effected a real change in our relations to the "awful" and "righteous" Lord, and a change in our favor." Trusting in him is salvation by grace in all that he is and has done, will be, and will do for you.

Jesus was made man to substitute for children, women, and men. Jesus was and is God so that his substitutionary obedience, suffering, death, and resurrection was perfect and for God's justice to be completely and eternally satisfied. Trusting in Jesus as the fully God and fully man Redeemer is effectual for freedom from sin and death to live fully for God.

“What’s Happening with the Property at Covenant Road?”

This is a frequently asked question at Christ Covenant PCA. We are trusting in God to bring about the sale of the property at Barnwell Street, and to provide the needed assets for the revitalization of the property at Covenant Road through the services of Hood Construction. Below is the plan for the property as written in our “Christ Covenant Church PCA Revitalization Plan for 2020 & Beyond”.

Christ Covenant Church desires to revitalize the property at 3100 Covenant Road in 2020 because we believe it is good for the surrounding neighborhoods in the city of Columbia to have places where God’s people are gathering together for worship, life, and ministry together.

We affirm that church buildings are for the common good. Our church buildings and property are visible markers of Jesus’s neighborly proximity and are public outposts of God’s kingdom in the community commons. God fills his church buildings and property with his merciful new creatures in Christ, so that they become “sanctuaries” for those seeking refuge from the storms of life. Those who worship there will also carry out their callings in life and ministry in the community. Those who live around the property are enabled to access it as a viable part of their life in the community.

We affirm that church buildings are good for the catholicity of the church. We are committed to cultivating connections with other gospel preaching churches. Practicing faithful partnerships with other churches in the neighborhood and city through the use of church property enables us and other churches to maintain a faithful witness in a diverse city.

We affirm that communities formed by faith in Jesus Christ occupy place and space. The architecture and aesthetics of the places where we gather for worship and life together shape our communion with Jesus Christ and our community in him week after week. They are place, and there is a theology of place and space that we as Christians must engage as we do other theological truth. We welcome people not only with open arms but open doors. Without the gospel of Jesus Christ we cannot be a welcoming place or space, and with place and space a gospel extending community is a refuge for weary pilgrims. Therefore, we inhabit architectural spaces alive with aesthetics for the common good.

We affirm that Covenant Presbyterian Church has been present in the Forest Acres area in the City of Columbia since the 1950’s, and now as Christ Covenant Church PCA it is time for us to continue to invest in this property as a place for a viable gospel witness to the community for the common good of all.

The Scope of Revitalization for 2020 includes:

- ❖ Sanctuary Renovations: To include asbestos abatement, flooring, painting, pew refinishing & upholstery, and sound.
- ❖ Office and Bathroom Renovations: To include office space reconstruction and the addition of women’s and men’s bathroom facilities.
- ❖ Cafe’ and Outdoor Gathering Space Renovations: To include a renovated covered outdoor gathering area outside of sanctuary and a renovated “Cafe” for an indoor common meeting area on the left wing of Sanctuary building.
- ❖ Nursery Space Renovations: To include changes to the “Education Building:” to provide a secure nursery and young children’s ministry space.
- ❖ Playground Renovations: To include upgrades to playing field, playground space and a covered picnic area.

Please pray with us for the sale of the property at Barnwell Street.

Please give to the “Building Fund” for the property revitalization plan at Covenant Road.

Please encourage others - family, friends, church friends, others who have a past connection to Covenant Presbyterian Church - to give to the “Building Fund”. There is a letter available through the church office you can share with them.

Please join and/or pray for the “Property Team” and use your talents and gifts to help us see this plan realized. Please participate in worship, life, and ministry together in our present situation with a heart to glorify God and encourage others through love and service.

Please be a people full of gratitude for the people, places, and callings you have to participate with and in because of God’s grace shared with you in his salvation through Jesus Christ.