

Each week of 2019 we will take a brief look at one or more questions from the Westminster Shorter Catechism. To read previous weeks' briefs go to [oakhillpca.com/wsc](http://oakhillpca.com/wsc)

Q. 25. *How does Christ execute the office of a priest?*

A. Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

Q. 26. *How does Christ execute the office of a king?*

A. Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Jesus Christ is the only Redeemer for mankind. He completes his work as our Redeemer in the "offices" of *prophet, priest, and king*. As prophet he speaks God's word and reveals God himself.

A priest, by definition, is one who mediates, or goes between two parties. One party is the divine and the other party is in debt to the divine. How can you bring together the holy, infinite God and sinful, finite humans like us? Only one can fulfill this need and role perfectly: the unique Son of God, fully divine and fully human. Question 25 states that Christ accomplishes two tasks as our priest: 1. He satisfies divine justice, and 2. He intercedes for us.

God's justice demands death for every sin (Rom. 6:23). His justice cannot be ignored. The only a perfect and infinite sacrifice (substitute) will fully satisfy that demand for justice. Jesus is that perfect sacrifice. He offers himself on the cross in our place to take on himself the just penalty for our sin (Is. 53; Heb. 9:26-28). Not only that, Christ rose from the dead and ascended to heaven to continue his ministry on our behalf, interceding to the Father on our behalf (Rom. 8:34, Heb. 7:25).

A king rules, protects, and provides for his people. In a similar manner, Christ is the king for his people. The Catechism says he first "subdues us to himself." This reminds us that we were once slaves in sin, rebellious to God and his ways. Christ, as our king, rescues us from that slavery and woos our hearts to him (Rom. 5:10-11, Col. 1:13).

Christ "rules" his people through his word. In his final commission of the disciples, Jesus calls them to "teach them to observe all that I have commanded you." We submit to Christ's rule in our lives by hearing and submitting to his word.

Christ, as our king, also fights our battles. He "restrains and conquers" our enemies. The decisive battle was won on the cross over sin, guilt, and the devil (Col. 2:15, 1 Jn. 3:8). Even now he continues the battle and will finish the battle at his second coming, when death itself is swallowed up (1 Cor. 15:24-26, 54-55).

Praise God for such a "merciful and faithful" priest and king!