

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. 27. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?*

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

*Q. 28. Wherein consists Christ's exaltation?*

A. Christ's exaltation consists in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

These two questions push us to consider the two "states" of Christ in his work as Mediator, his state of humiliation and state of exaltation. Notice the tense of the two questions. Christ's humiliation is in the past tense, because this work is complete. Christ's exaltation is in the present tense; this work he continues to do on our behalf.

The humiliation of Christ speaks about his condescension and submission to the Father's will for our salvation. If Christ was not humiliated, we would have not salvation. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). That's our "state" because of our sin. "Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect" (Heb. 2:17). The only way for Christ to serve as our Mediator, he had to be humbled from his exalted, divine state.

Paul explains the extent of Christ's humiliation in Philippians 2:6-8. "Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Q. 27 highlights these levels of humiliation. God the Son was born as a lowly human; he suffered human weaknesses; then he was crucified in one of the most humiliating ways.

The depth of Christ's humiliation humbles us and leads us to be broken for our sin.

Paul continues in Philippians 2 to highlight Christ's exaltation: "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" (v. 9-11). God is pleased with his Son. He raised him from the dead and exalted him to heaven with glory. From this exalted state, Christ continues to serve us as our interceder, our king, and our protector.