

Becoming One of Us

Text: Hebrews 2:16-18

Date: 1-28-24

1. Christ became like one of us, not like an angel (Heb. 2:16-17a).

Jesus *did not take hold of to assist or provide aid* to the angels.

There is a spiritual sense here that shows through Abraham all the nations of the world are blessed (Gal. 3:29).

If Jesus is God, why did He become like one of us?

- Jesus came to redeem mankind not angels (II Pet. 2:4; Rev. 12:7-9).
- Jesus offers forgiveness to mankind and not angels.
- Jesus became like one of us to suffer for us, to die for us, to make inoperative the power of the devil, to free us, and yet there is more!

Christ became human flesh so He could come to give help and aid mankind in our sinful distress.

2. Christ became one of us to be our high priest (Heb. 2:17b).

It was completely necessary that Jesus Christ become human kind like us for it was humans that needed His help.

Jesus Christ completely understands everything about us, our limitations, our weaknesses, our struggles, our fears and feelings, so it can truly be said that He alone is qualified to fill this role.

The issue that affects all of us is the consequences of sin – suffering and death – and Christ went through them both. He felt and endured the pain of our sin. He took that sin and suffering and went to the cross for us. Every single part of His physical pain and torture He took without anger, angst, or choosing to fight back (I Pet. 2:21-24).

Jesus became man for the purpose of being *a merciful and faithful high priest*.

The high priest was the middle man between the sinful people and God and he reconciled the relationship between God and the people when he poured the blood from the sacrifices over the mercy seat. There would be no atonement for sins, no reconciliation to God, and no forgiveness for the sinful acts of the people without the High Priest's actions on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16). By the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and the shedding of His blood during that event, Jesus Christ became our High Priest!!

merciful: means *to show leniency, compassion, forgiveness, especially to those who have offended*.

The word mercy (equivalent to Hebrew *hesed*) means God's gracious faithfulness. It shows God's unreserved kindness towards us as sinners.

In our condition of total demerit against God, God reached down to us and looked at our sin as a whole, and gave us the opportunity to be reconciled to Him. That's grace!

faithful: Jesus Christ never once failed in His ministry, actions, or words. He is worthy of trust because He was reliable in all things.

3. Jesus Christ became one of us so we can be reconciled to God (Heb. 2:17c)

reconciliation: The word reconciliation (Greek: *hilaskomai*) means *to appease, to forgive, to make propitiation, to expiate*.

The idea here is that those who believe on Jesus will have their sins taken away or removed through Jesus Christ's death on the cross.

Heb. 10:4 says the blood of bulls and goats could not actually take away sins.

Jesus Christ's work as a high priest completely removed sins so the wrath of God does not fall on the believer. His atonement doesn't just cover up our sins; It removes them! Therefore, we are not under sin's penalty or the condemnation or wrath of God since Jesus paid it all for us.

4. Christ became one of us to deliver us from power of temptation (Heb. 2:18).

What made Him qualified to become our high priest? He hath suffered being tempted. Angels cannot do this. Jesus Christ can serve as our high priest because every test He was put through He passed. He overcame the greatest of all tests.

Overcoming the strength of the temptation to sin is more powerful than succumbing to sin. Jesus demonstrated He had the power to defeat sin and any temptation to it. He did NOT have to become a sinner to empathize with us; rather, He was perfectly qualified because He did NOT sin and therefore He is a perfect High Priest.

God's purpose in the temptations was to show that Christ did indeed face temptation, just like we do, yet He did not yield to the temptation. He was sinless.

We can confidently and boldly go before our merciful and faithful high priest because "through identification with humanity even in suffering, Christ fitted Himself superbly so as to be worthy of the confidence of every believer" (Kent 62).