**The Mediator**

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From the [August 19, 1916 issue](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1916/8/18-51) of the *Christian Science Sentinel*

 JESUS of Nazareth is generally accepted as the world's foremost religious instructor. He presented a more spiritual concept of God and man than did any of his predecessors, and he was more successful in demonstrating the truth of his doctrine. The application of his teachings was broad enough to convince the thoughtful person that the truth, as he presented it, is equal to every reasonable demand that can be made upon it. On [page 315](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=Jesus+was+the+mediator+between+Spirit+and+the+flesh%2C+between+Truth+and+error.&book=tfccs.main.sh) of Science and Health Mrs. Eddy says that "Jesus was the mediator between Spirit and the flesh, between Truth and error." If his teachings are not scientifically understood, the purpose of his works is not fully comprehended, and there is a vague and indefinite belief as to how much he accomplished for the salvation of mankind. It is believed by some that he did all that is necessary, and it only remains for humanity to accept him as their Saviour. Others regard him as the Wayshower, the one who came to point the way and make it possible for men to work out their own salvation.

In his first epistle to Timothy Paul writes, "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." These words of the apostle are variously interpreted, and the interpretation placed upon them by an individual very largely determines that individual's conception of the Master's life-work and the purpose of his mission. If it is believed that Jesus appeased the wrath of God and thereby affected a reconciliation between God and man,—and this is the view entertained by many,—it would seem that his work was that of an arbitrator rather than a mediator; but Paul declares that he was, or rather is, the "mediator between God and men." There is a vital difference between an arbitrator and a mediator, as the word is here used.

An arbitrator is one who endeavors to settle disputes between those who fail to agree in matters pertaining to the welfare of themselves and others. When trouble arises, each party naturally believes himself to be the victim of injustice. It is a fact too apparent to admit of argument, that at such times all who are in any way concerned in the matter are inclined to a selfish view of things, and while contending for their own rights, as they conceive them, they fail to give due consideration to the rights of those whom they believe to be responsible for the trouble. If at all times the rights of others were recognized and appreciated, it can be safely said there would be little need of the services of an arbitrator.

At the very outset of his work the arbitrator assumes there may be faults on both sides, and he hopes to find an intermediate ground whereon the contending parties may be willing to take their stand. In all matters settled by arbitration both sides are called upon to make concessions, and a higher sense of human justice is brought out than would be the case if one party were required to concede everything. The human sense of right is not absolute, and it is not wise for any mortal to be so convinced of the justice of his position that he will give no consideration to another's viewpoint. The errors of mortal sense must be recognized, and there must be a willingness to correct them. The arbitrator endeavors to present the situation in such a manner that both parties will see wherein they are at fault and be willing to make such concessions as may be necessary to restore harmony.

Jesus the Christ was the mediator between God and man, but he was not an arbitrator. To the extent that a demonstrable understanding of Jesus' teachings is gained, a reconciliation is effected between God and man, but this reconciliation is due to no change or concession on the part of God. Right here is where the atonement as taught in Christian Science is vitally different from the belief entertained by many. In Science and Health we read ([p. 19](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=It+was+therefore+Christ%27s+purpose+to+reconcile+man+to+God%2C+not+God+to+man....+Jesus+aided+in+reconciling+man+to+God+by+giving+man+a+truer+sense+of+Love%2C+the+divine+Principle+of+Jesus%27+teachings%2C+and+this+truer+sense+of+Love+redeems+man+from+the+law+of+matter%2C+sin%2C+and+death+by+the+law+of+Spirit%2C%E2%80%94the+law+of+divine+Love&book=tfccs.main.sh)): "It was therefore Christ's purpose to reconcile man to God, not God to man.... Jesus aided in reconciling man to God by giving man a truer sense of Love, the divine Principle of Jesus' teachings, and this truer sense of Love redeems man from the law of matter, sin, and death by the law of Spirit,—the law of divine Love."

Wherein there is need of a reconciliation between God and man, it is because humanity has lost sight of the true idea of both God and man. Man as humanly conceived has wandered far from the Father's house, and is subject to that triad of evils,—sin, sickness, and death. God has not changed; He is the same loving Father that He was in the beginning. Nothing that man can do or leave undone can change God, who is Love. Humanity can do nothing to make Him more loving, compassionate, just, or merciful. All that is needed is for humanity to awake to the realization of what God is. When this is done the reconciliation will be complete.

Jesus understood the truth of being, and he realized how great is humanity's need; he knew that nothing but divine Love can supply that need. The sole purpose of his mission was to teach humanity the way to God, and in fulfilling this mission he was the mediator, or Wayshower. Salvation as Jesus taught it means salvation from all evil. To human sense man is not in harmony with his creator, because he believes in the reality of that which is not the manifestation of the divine will. All evil must be overcome. Sin, sickness, and even death itself, must be destroyed before man's unity with God can be fully realized. Jesus' teachings and works show that evil is overcome only through obedience to divine law. In this way man is reconciled to God and the work of the mediator is accomplished.

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