

The Mediator

Christ our Perfect Mediator

Aniefiok Moses, PhD, MTh

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Topic

The Conflict and the NEED for Mediation*

Outline

- Background/ Introduction
- Objectives
- The mediator
 - Qualification
 - Characteristics
 - Strategic operation
 - Expected outcome
- The need for mediation
- The process of mediation
- The outcome and benefit of mediation
- Conclusion

Background

- Mediation often arise when there is conflict, disagreement, or misunderstanding between parties in a relationship.
- The parties (two individuals or group of individuals, communities, towns, LGAs, states or countries), in conflict may decide to choose the path of peace and seek peaceful resolution of their conflict, hence invite a mediator, or
- External persons or group may realize the cost and the impact of the conflict and decide to step in to salvage the situation.
- Therefore there is always the need for mediation.

Objectives

- To explain the causes of conflict in relationship
- To state the need for mediation
- To explain the processes for mediation
- To define the meaning of mediation and mediator
- To explain how Christ qualify to be a mediator between men and God

Reconciliation after Mediation



Definitions -1

- Mediation: The intervention into a dispute or negotiation by an acceptable, impartial and neutral third party (with no decision-making power) to assist disputing parties in voluntarily reaching their own mutually acceptable settlement of issues in dispute, or
- Mediation is a dynamic, structured, interactive process where an impartial third party assists disputing parties in resolving conflict through the use of specialized communication and negotiation techniques. All participants in mediation are encouraged to actively participate in the process. [Wikipedia](#)
- Mediation consists of negotiation between disputing parties, assisted by a neutral third party.

Definitions -2

- Mediator: a person who attempts to make people involved in a conflict come to an agreement; a go-between.
- The principal **role** of the **mediator** is to facilitate communication between the parties in conflict with a view to helping them reach a voluntary resolution to their dispute that is timely, fair and cost-effective. ...
- The **mediator**, however, may raise issues and help parties explore options.

Principal Text: 1 Tim 2: 5

For there is one God
and one mediator
between God and mankind,
the man Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 2:5

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- **New Living Translation**

For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus.

- **English Standard Version**

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

- **Contemporary English Version**

There is only one God, and Christ Jesus is the only one who can bring us to God. Jesus was truly human, and he gave himself to rescue all of us.

- **Good News Translation**

For there is one God, and there is one who brings God and human beings together, the man Christ Jesus.

- **International Standard Version**

There is one God. There is also one mediator between God and human beings—a human, the Messiah Jesus.

- **English Revised Version**

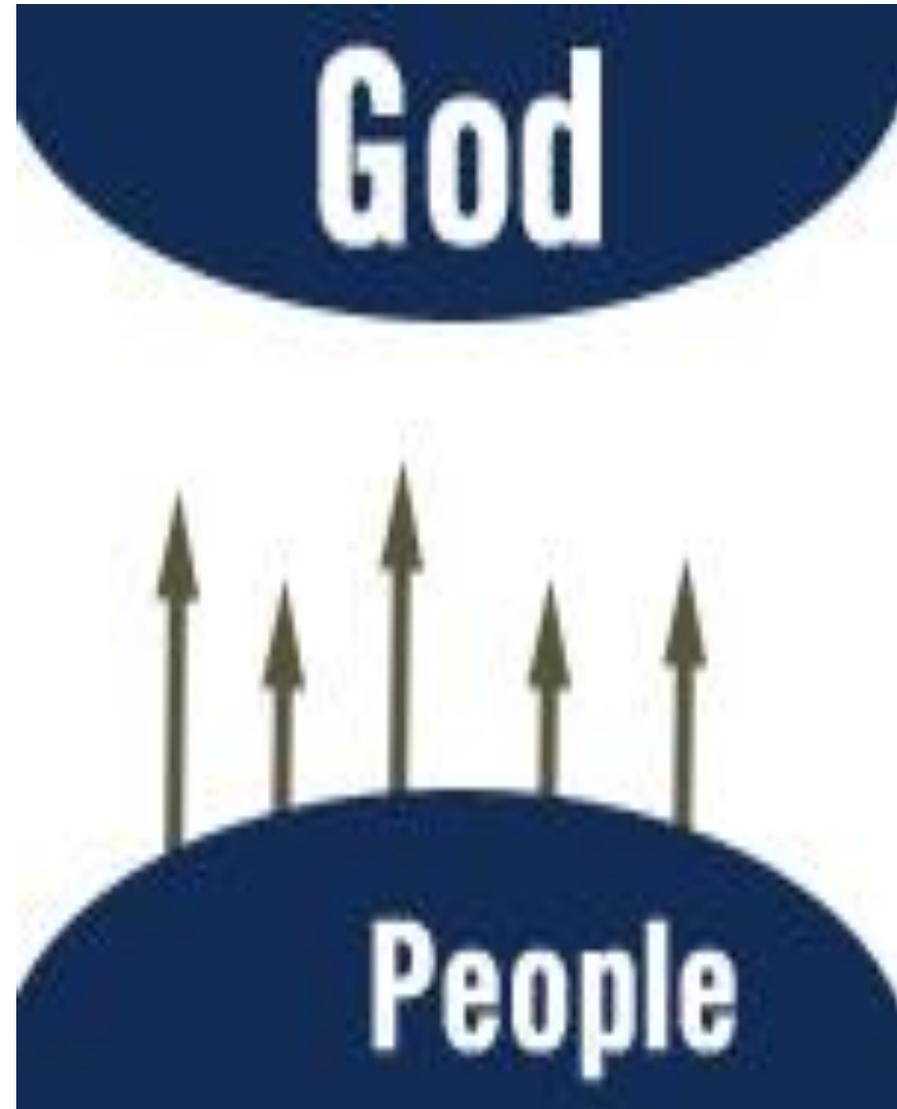
For there is one God, one mediator also between God and men, himself man, Christ Jesus.

The Conflict Between God & Man

- Cause:
 - Sin of Disobedience
- Result:
 - Separation from God
 - Lost of son-ship
 - Lost of inheritance
- Way out or Remedy
 - Reconciliation

The Outcome of the Conflict Between God & Man

- Lost of personal relationship & communication with God, (Eph. 2:3).
- Lost of peace & joy.
- Lost of inheritance.
- God appointed a *teacher, tutor, pedagogue* (the LAW) to train us – Rom 2: 20; **Gal 3: 24-25**.
- Purpose to bring us to Christ by which we now will live by faith.



Living Under our Teacher – the LAW -1

- Why the Law? Giving (added) because of sin (Gal 3: 19).
- Lost of access to God and our inheritance as sons.
- The Law is opposed to life (3:1-18). This is demonstrated by:
 - Experience: How did we first receive and live our spiritual life? (Gal 3:1-5)
 - Example: How did Old Testament saints receive spiritual life? (Gal 3:6-9)
 - Exposition: What does the Scripture teach about how life is to be received? (Gal 3:10-18).

Living Under our Teacher – the LAW -2

- The Role of Law (3:19-4:7) is shown in Scripture to be severely limited:
 - In extent/period: It is temporary (3:19-20).
 - In ability: It cannot make alive (3:21-22).
 - In function: It was a custodian (3:23-24).
 - In form: It is nullified today (3:25-4:8)
 - Because we are "in Christ"
 - Because we are now sons

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Living Under our Teacher – the LAW -3

- The Law is an inferior way that now leads to tragic results for the believer (4:8-5:11).
- Law leads to:
 - Dissatisfaction: It robs us of joy (4:8-19)
 - Bondage: It robs us of freedom (4:20-5:1).
 - Powerlessness: It turns us from expectant faith to hopeless effort (5:2-12).

Why Not Law? Gal 3:1-5:12

- Importance of faith (Gal 3:10).
- Paul said "all who rely on observing the Law."
- He did not suggest that the Law itself is somehow bad or wrong.
- Paul made a point in verses 15-18 - If the Law was so important, how did people ever get along without it?
- He therefore insisted that the Law had never had anything to do with faith.
- Reliance on the Law, either as a way of salvation, or as a way to work out one's salvation, was inappropriate and waste of time. Faith in God is the Principal thing.

The Law as a Teacher – A Separator

- Law as teacher (Gal 4:1-7).
- Paul used another illustration to make the same point.
- It was common in the Greek culture of his day to place a young child under the supervision of a family slave, called a pedagogue (a word sometimes translated in Gal 4:2 as "guardian," "trustee," "manager," etc.).
- The pedagogue made sure that the child obeyed the parent, whether the child wanted to obey, or not.
- Until the children would "receive the full rights of sons" (v. 5) they were, in fact, no more than the slaves of a slave!
- They had to obey a slave who obeyed their father.

Faith versus Law

- Paul argued: Now that faith has come and believers have been "clothed...with Christ" (Gal 3: 27), we have been truly tamed!
- How foolish, then, to insist that the tamed beast continue to live behind bars! Especially when all along God had affirmed His intention of removing the bars as soon as the new and living Way came (see Jer 31:31-34).
- The Law was a pedagogue.
- Jesus' redemption act is that great event in history marking the transition from childhood to son-ship.
- The Law, which up until Jesus had a pedagogue's function, now had nothing to do with our relationship with God! "So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir" (Gal 4: 7).
- The Teacher's Commentary. Copyright © 1987 by Chariot Victor Publishing.

Key Verses

- **Acts 4:12**
Salvation exists in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.“
- **Romans 3:30**
since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.
- **1 Corinthians 8:6**
yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we exist. And there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we exist.
- **Galatians 3:20**
A mediator is unnecessary, however, if there is only one party; but God is one.
- **1 John 2:1**
My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate before the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

Steps to Reconciliation

- Parties should recognize the need for reconciliation, or external person(s) or organization may initiate it.
- The parties are willing to reconcile.
- The parties are willing to communicate openly and honestly.
- **The parties appoint a mediator.**
- Mediator initiate steps for mediation.
- Parties accept and honor terms and condition for reconciliation.
- Parties reunite in stronger relationship.
- A solution should only be reached by agreement between the parties.

N/B: However, in the dispute between man & God, it is only God that made all the initiatives for reconciliation; man was always distancing from God, until Christ came.

Process for Reconciliation - *Spiritual*

- Examine your conscience. Ask the Holy Spirit to help point sin in your life (Acts 2: 37).
- Have contrition for your sins – demonstrate godly sorrow for your sins (2 Cor 7: 10-11).
- Confess your sins. Being able to own up to one's sins takes maturity and sincerity (1 John 1:9).
- Absolution – Ask God's forgiveness.
- Do penance if need be.
- **Knowing The Message Of Reconciliation (Colossians 1: 20-23)**

Characteristics of Mediation Process

- Involves two or more parties in dispute over one or more contending issue(s)
- Entirely voluntary for non-litigious disputes
- Non-coercive, in that the mediator does not decide for the parties, but rather encourages them to agree to a settlement
- The third party is neutral, remains impartial
- Mediator may provide relationship-building or procedural assistance and options which had not been previously contemplated by the parties
- Mediator encourages parties to explore alternate possibilities/options in settling the dispute
- More informal and relaxed than that of a court or an arbitration
- Rules are those which are agreed to between the parties
- Confidentiality is an important ingredient of mediation
- All communications are without prejudice and cannot be used as evidence in subsequent arbitration or court action (those normally available through Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) remain available)
- Each of the disputing parties control the disclosure of information to the mediator and what information can be disclosed to the other parties

The Mediator - *Qualification*

- External:
 - Respectable with charisma
 - Knowledgeable and renown
 - Honest and high level of integrity
 - Impartial
 - Patience and ability to listen
 - Humility
- Internal:
 - Empathy
 - Courageous
 - Firm but fair
 - Confidentiality

Christ, Our Mediator -1

- Christ, then, is shown to be the Sacrifice for forgiveness of sin; the Mediator of peace between God and us; the Testator who died, passing on the benefits to us. These benefits work to remove the flaw, allowing us to keep the terms of the New Covenant.

Christ, Our Mediator -2

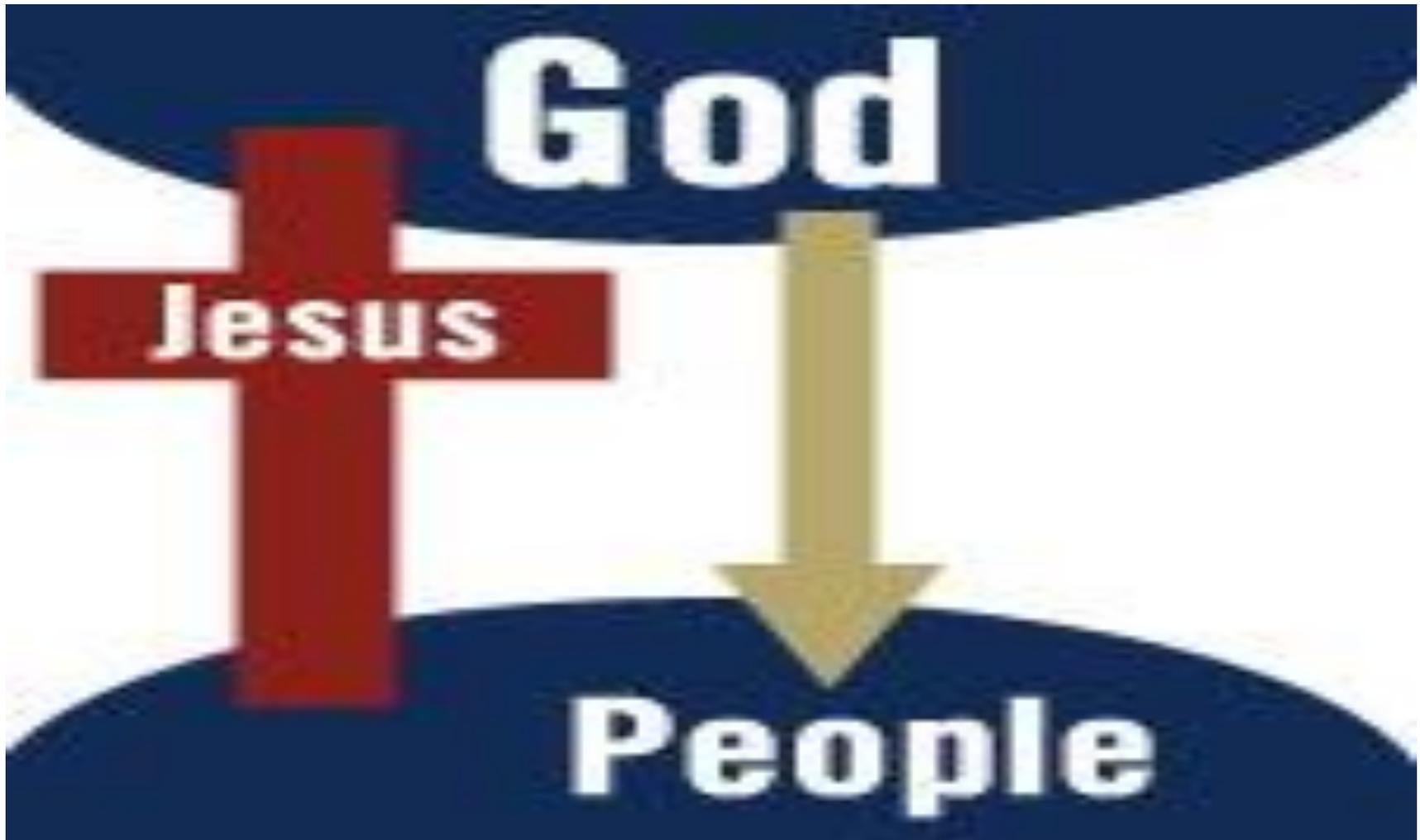
- Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin. Through Him we can know and experience God's love and plan for our life.

Christ's Qualification as our Mediator -1

Hebrews 9:15-17

- (15) And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. (16) For where there *is* a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. (17) For a testament *is* in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.
- *For this reason* – see verses 11-14

Christ's Qualification as our Mediator-2



"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me." John 14:6-7

Christ's Qualification as our Mediator-3

- 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with **justice and righteousness** from that time on and **forever**. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. (Isa 9: 6-7 *NIV*)

Christ's Qualification as our Mediator -4

- Role as an advisor, a counselor, a catalyst, a record holder
- **Jesus carries out the office of Prophet** - The work of a prophet is to proclaim God's truth.
- **Jesus carries out the office of Priest** - The work of Priest is that of affirming reconciliation between God and fallen man by way of atonement.
- **Jesus met the Priesthood qualifications of the law** – i) He was called of God by direct appointment as announced by prophets and angels. ii) He was 30 years old, the required age for all who enter the priesthood, Numbers 4:3; Luke 3:23 is one of the two times an age of Jesus is recorded in the Bible. When he was 12 years old at the Temple in Jerusalem, and at his baptism by John, iii) He was ordained by a legally recognized priest, John. John was qualified as a priest in the Levitical family charged with the temple service.
- **Jesus also carries out the office of King** - Our Creator's sovereignty as King over all creation was clearly revealed in the commanded work of Eden.
- **Jesus is the ultimate revealing of the Kingship of God over all of his creation.**
- **The kingship of Christ is specially declared in his headship over the church.** He leads by his word and spirit under the direction of chosen and ordained officers (Ephesians 4:15, Colossians 1:18, 2:19)

Christ Fullness of Time – Gal 4: 4-5

- Finally, Christ came when He did in fulfillment of specific prophecy.
- Daniel 9:24-27 speaks of the “seventy weeks” or the seventy “sevens.” From the context, these “weeks” or “sevens” refer to groups of seven years, not seven days.
- We can examine history and line up the details of the first sixty-nine weeks (the seventieth week will take place at a future point). The countdown of the seventy weeks begins with “the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem” (verse 25).
- This command was given by Artaxerxes Longimanus in 445 B.C. (see Nehemiah 2:5). After seven “sevens” plus 62 “sevens,” or 69 x 7 years, the prophecy states, “the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing.
- The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary” and that the “end will come like a flood” (meaning major destruction) (v. 26).
- Here we have an unmistakable reference to the Savior’s death on the cross. A century ago in his book *The Coming Prince*, Sir Robert Anderson gave detailed calculations of the sixty-nine weeks, using ‘prophetic years,’ allowing for leap years, errors in the calendar, the change from B.C. to A.D., etc., and figured that the sixty-nine weeks ended on the very day of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, five days before His death.

Result of a Perfect Relationship

- **What did Jesus mean when He said He would give us ‘whatever you ask in my name’?”**

Answer: In [John 14](#), Jesus says, “Very truly I tell you . . . I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it” (verses 12–14).

- It means as the first heir to God’s covenant from Abraham, he has the legal right as an inheritor to share the blessings to other members of the same family – those legally adopted through his mediation and redemption.

The Law as Pointer

- The Law was meant to help people understand the depth of their sinfulness (in that they were incapable of keeping the Law) so that they might more readily accept the cure for that sin through Jesus the Messiah (Galatians 3:22-23; Romans 3:19-20).
- The Law was also “put in charge” (Galatians 3:24) to lead people to Jesus as the Messiah.

Benefit of Mediation

- The **main advantages** of attempting to reach agreement by **mediation** are: ...
 - No settlement can be imposed upon you (as happens in litigation or arbitration). ... Because **mediation** can be used early in a dispute, an agreement can be reached more quickly than may be the case when pursuing the litigation.
- We can then have a sustained and wonderful relationship with God.
- We can have His laws written on our hearts (Heb. 8:10) and so be transformed into His image, qualified to share the inheritance of the promises with Him because we are now like Him.

New Relationship

How to Live
a New Life
in

Christ

To be concluded
on 13th April
2020

