

San Juan Church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About...

A Human Mediator

Is there a time in the life of a Christian that he sins to the point that he cannot pray for himself, but instead has some righteous brother pray for him? The answer can clearly be found in scripture: "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God and our Savior, who desires all men [mankind] to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus," (1 Timothy 2:3-5). This scripture does not leave room for any other person to be a mediator between any Christian and God.

The scriptures show that the church of the Lord is "the house of God," (1 Timothy 3:15). If one is "in Christ" (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27-28) we are called by the apostle Peter "a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ," (1 Peter 2:4-5). Notice that we [those in Christ] are a "holy priesthood." Christ is our High Priest (Hebrews 4:15). Each obedient disciple of Christ is a priest of God, and as such, we have access to God without the intervention of any other human being (1 Peter 2:9).

It is scriptural to ask others to pray for us (1 Thess. 5:25; 2 Thess. 3:1; Hebrews 13:18). Often a repentant believer in Christ needs to confess his sins and weaknesses to other brothers (James 5:16), and even to the whole church, so that they may pray for him. But when one repents, he can ask God to forgive him immediately. Our forgiveness is not contingent on someone else praying for us, for this would make that person a mediator through whom we must go in order to have access to God. Christ is the ONLY mediator. That means your brother in Christ, the preacher, the elders, and even the whole church cannot serve as a mediator. Your forgiveness is between you and God, with Christ as a mediator.

"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness," (1 John 1:8-9). John also wrote "And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous," (1 John 2:1). Paul instructs us that we are to repent of our sins when he says "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it!" (Romans 6:1-2) According to scripture this is the way we confess and repent of our sins to God.

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
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