

THE PERFECTING OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

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A magnificent revelation God shows us in the Bible is how he was made perfect through Jesus Christ. At first, this may be a hard thing to grasp: Did God lack some critical elements of his being? Wouldn't that make him no longer God? Not true. God is God with or without man. But God informs us he learned and completed some things through his incarnation and passion.

In an effort to elicit a cathexis from the reader, let's start off with a reading of a couple passages:

5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Hebrews 5:5-9

16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

1 Timothy 3:16

In order to make sense of this, we have to grasp a few ideas.

First, we have to understand *that Jesus Christ is indeed God*. He is the Creator of all things (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:12-17). He is the image of the Father (John 14:1-11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Hebrews 1:1-3). What Jesus did, God did. What Jesus is, God is. What Jesus experienced, God experienced. The Father and the Son are one.

Secondly, that being said, we have to further understand that God is who he is and has no need of others in order to be God. God is all in all. He is the Creator of all things, the Lawgiver and Judge. He gives life, and he takes it away. God is eternal. Note these points:

- God is all powerful – he can do all things.
- God is all wise – he needs no counselor, no one can teach him anything.
- God is all sufficient – he needs no help from anyone
- God is all knowing – nothing is hid from him
- God is eternal – he has no beginning or end.

Thirdly, before the incarnation, there were some things God did not have or know personally by experience:

- A way to show his love other than by blessing and cursing. Through Jesus he shows his love by dying for us.

- A life of poverty (compared to that of heaven – 2 Corinthians 8:9). We do not fully understand the greatness of glory and all the things prepared for us. Jesus left that place to come to this earth, and lived his early life as a carpenter's son. As an adult, Jesus had very few possessions.
- An obligation to obey earthly, fallible parents. Consider God submitting himself to Mary and Joseph.
- A physical body in which to grow and mature. There was a great difference in ability and strength when God voluntarily took on the form of man, thus limiting himself to that body.
- Hunger and thirst
- Temptation in a physical body
- Weakness and tiredness
- Physical tears to weep
- The baptism of suffering he had to drink
- The experience of being beaten, spit upon, tortured and crucified; and all the disrespect he endured at the hands of the Roman soldiers.
- The experience of a death, burial and a resurrection. God actually experienced death for all men.

Through all these experiences of Jesus Christ, God was perfected – “made perfect” through the death, burial and resurrection. Notice what Jesus said in Luke 13:32: “And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.”

Again, read Hebrews 2:9, 10: “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. 10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Through suffering, Jesus Christ became perfect – complete and accomplished. By the resurrection, he made a way for us to have eternal life.

Jesus came to finish the work of God (John 4:34; 17:4). Jesus came to fulfill scripture (John 19:28). By that one offering of himself Jesus perfected those who receive him (Hebrews 10:14).

Now, no one can justly say aught against God. A man cannot say God does not understand. A person cannot say God does not know what I am going through. A child cannot say God does not know what it is like to have to obey parents. One close to death can know Jesus passed that way before him. Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.

The obvious question is why. Why did God endure all these things? Why did he not just “walk away” from his creation, or erase it altogether? The cost of redemption was great, but was it necessary?

God gives us the answer why in John 3:16 – it was to show his love. Charity is the bond of perfectness (Colossians 3:14). And because God is love (1 John 4:8, 16), he showed it to his creation. He commended his love by dying for us (Romans 5:8).

And God offers you his love through the Saviour, Jesus Christ. Receive him today and know the perfect love of God. And as you love others, God's love will be perfected in you (1 John 4:12). Do you know that love today?

Then End.