

*One of the biggest challenges in parenting is sibling rivalry.* What do squabbling brothers or sisters need? What do playground disputes need? Who is often called when adults need help solving problems? Or businesses or churches or spouses? From sophisticated titles like lawyers and judges to beleaguered moms and dads, all of us need a mediator, a peacemaker. We all need someone to step in and resolve our problems.

This is what Jesus has done on our behalf. As our Mediator, He came to earth to bring us back to His Father, to resolve our differences, to bridge the gap between us. Without His intercession we could not make peace with God whom we have offended.

How have we offended God? Simply by our selfishness, our sin, and our pride. Once Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden every person ever born became infected with the disease of self-centeredness. As a result, our natural bent is to want our own way rather than the perfect way of our Father.

Jesus is named the Mediator of a new covenant, or agreement, "That those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance" (Hebrews 9:15). By accepting Jesus as our Mediator, our debts to God are cancelled, our opposition to God is removed, and our distance to God is bridged. He has opened a new and living way for us to draw near to the throne of God!

On the day we die and appear in heaven, Jesus will say to the Father, "Mine. I paid for this one." The gates will swing wide; we will be welcomed into eternal happiness, because Jesus the Mediator has made us right with God!

*Will you thank Him today that He has mediated your right standing with God, the ruler of the universe?* This Christmas will you remember to thank Him every day for coming to earth on *your* behalf? His mediation is the reason we can celebrate with extravagance!

