

# 10

## OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

*Hebrews 4:14-16*

**Introduction: You need a good lawyer!**

### **I. A High Priest That Effectively Intercedes For Us (v.14)**

- A. Christ Intercedes in the presence of God for you: “[he] passed through the heavens”
  - o OT high priest merely went into an earthly temple, the “holy of holies”
  - o But Jesus went into the *heavenly* temple to intercede directly in God’s presence
    - “Christ did not enter a manmade sanctuary, that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us God’s presence” (Heb 9:24)
- B. Christ intercedes eternally for you: “Jesus, the Son of God”
  - o OT high priest was limited by the fact that he would eventually die
  - o But Jesus, as the eternal Son of God, lives forever to intercede for us
    - “Consequently, [Jesus] is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them” (Heb 7:25)
- C. Implication: “Let us hold fast our confession”
  - o “confession”= what we believe about Jesus
  - o Hold fast to Christ because he is the only effective intercessor between man and God

### **II. A High Priest that Fully Sympathizes With Us (v.15a)**

- A. Christ Experience Suffering/Weakness Like You: “We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize”
  - o Christ experienced a dark, fallen world just as we do
  - o What are some ways Jesus has suffered that allows him to sympathize with us?
- B. Christ Experienced Temptation Like You: “who in every respect has been tempted as we are”
  - o Christ endured severe temptation during his earthly life



- o Thus, he is compassionate towards us as we face our own temptations
- C. Implication: Come to Christ for Sympathy and Compassion
  - o We don't have to prove to other people our need for sympathy, always frustrated over how little we get
  - o Turn to Christ who is *always* sympathetic is our great high priest!

### III. High Priest that Really Purifies Us (v.15b-16)

- A. OT high priests could not really take away sin
  - o Animals could not really take away our sins because animals cannot represent humans
  - o OT high priests themselves couldn't take away sins because they themselves were sinners
  - o Even though we can't purify ourselves, what are some ways we still try?
- B. Unlike OT High Priests, Jesus could really cleanse us because he was not himself a sinner: "yet without sin"
  - o Jesus' perfect obedience allows him to be a pure sacrifice in our place
  - o Jesus' perfect obedience allow his righteousness to be "credited" to our account
- C. Implication: Approach God with Confidence
  - o "let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace" (v.16)
  - o Why? Because we are covered with Christ's righteousness and no longer have to fear judgment.



## Discussion Groups

1. In what ways have you tried to represent yourself before God, rather than letting Jesus do it?

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2. What are some struggles you are facing today and how does Jesus' own experience of struggles help encourage you?

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3. Talk about your level of "confidence" as you approach God's throne. What keeps you from being sure of your standing with God? How does this passage help?

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