

# The Priesthood and Advocacy of Christ

1 John 1:3–2:2

Brethren writer Bruce Anstey explains the difference between Christ's priestly ministry and His advocacy ministry:



- 1) His Priesthood is to **keep the believer from failing** (Heb. 7:25); His Advocacy is to **restore the believer** if he fails (Luke 22:61).
- 2) His Priesthood is for **a time of need**—our temptations and infirmities (Heb. 4:15-16); His Advocacy is for **a time of failure and sin** (1 John 2:1-2).
- 3) His intercession as a Priest is that we might **behave well** (Luke 22:32); His intercession as an Advocate begins when the believer does **not behave well** (1 John 2:1-2).
- 4) He is a Priest **with God** (Heb. 2:17; 7:25); He is an Advocate **with the Father**. If sin enters the life of the believer his relation to God is still as “Father.” The believer does not lose his **link of relationship** with the Father as one of His children, but the smallest sin allows breaks in the believer's **link of communion** with the Father (1 John 2:1-2).
- 5) As a Priest He **sympathizes** with our weakness and infirmities (Heb. 2:17-18; 4:15-16); as an Advocate He **does not sympathize** with our sin—He grieves over it (Luke 22:61).
- 6) As a Priest it is **His life** on High that saves the believer from falling into sin (Rom. 5:10; Heb. 7:25); as an Advocate it is **His death** that He pleads on behalf of the failing believer on the grounds that propitiation has been made once and forever (1 John 2:1-2).
- 7) In connection with His Priesthood, His service is called **“faithful and merciful”** (Heb. 2:17); in regard to His Advocacy He is **“faithful and just”** (1 John 1:9).
- 8) His work as High Priest interceding for us is **continuous** (Heb. 7:25); His work as an Advocate is **intermittent**: it begins when the believer sins, God working to bring about repentance and confession (1 John 1:9; 2:1-2).

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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