

## Christian Doctrine Jesus Christ (Part 4) Sinlessness and Temptation

### *The Sinlessness of Christ*

A major difference between Jesus Christ and the rest of humanity was the fact that He alone was sinless.

- Jesus was completely innocent of sin (II Cor. 5:21).
  - His enemies could find no fault in Him (John 8:46; Matt. 22:15).
  - He testified of His sinlessness, and said that everything He did pleased the Father (John 8:29; 15:10).
  - Even at His crucifixion, He was found innocent multiple times (Matt. 27:24; John 18:38; 19:4, 6; etc.).
  - Scriptures clearly state that He “knew no sin” (II Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 2:22; I John 3:5; Heb. 4:15; 7:26).
  - He was truly a “lamb without blemish or spot” (I Pet. 1:19).
- The significance of Christ’s sinlessness:
  - He was morally, ethically perfect. He succeeded where we failed. He did what we could not do.
  - While in our guilt, He became the perfect, innocent sacrifice who could take away our sin (I Pet. 3:18).

### *The Temptation of Christ*

Jesus Christ was sinless, but yet He was not excluded from testing. He experienced temptation, just as everyone does.

- He faced temptation (Heb. 2:18; Luke 4:1-13).
  - His temptations were real. He was tested just as we are tested, yet He did not sin (Heb. 4:15).
  - He was tested in ways that appeal to human nature: lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life (compare I John 2:16 with Matt 4:1-11).
- \*Could Jesus have sinned? The fact that Jesus did not have a sin nature (being born of a virgin), and the fact that in His deity sin would not appeal to Him (James 1:13), strongly suggests that He could not have sinned.
- The purpose of His testing:
  - To relate to us as we experience testing (Heb. 4:15).
  - To show us how to be victorious (I Pet. 1:16).
  - To offer us grace and strength (Heb. 2:18; 4:16).

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