

## THE NATURE OF CHRIST AND MAN

BY PAUL CHUNG

Isaiah 53:4 KJV "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted."

Matthew 8:17 "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES, and bare our sicknesses."

\* Interesting to note here that Matthew 8 uses the expression "infirmities" as He refers to Isaiah 53 and the Inspiration affirms this:

*"He was subject to the INFIRMITIES AND WEAKNESSES BY WHICH MAN IS ENCOMPASSED, "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." [Mt 8:17] He was touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and was in all points tempted like as we are. And yet He "knew no sin." {5BC 1131.3}*

Rom 8:3 "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the LIKENESS OF SINFUL FLESH, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:"

Gal 4:4 "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, BORN OF A WOMAN, BORN UNDER THE LAW,"

Note: "born under the law"; Christ voluntarily subjected himself to the same natural laws as well as the jurisdiction of moral law while bearing the fallen/sinful nature, not unlike all other human beings born into the world. He made Himself become liable to be tempted and thereby fall.

Phil 2:7 " But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the FORM OF A SERVANT, AND WAS MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN:"

Heb. 2:7 "Thou madest him a little LOWER THAN THE ANGELS"

Heb 2:9 "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.

Hebrews 2:14-18 "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, HE ALSO LIKEWISE TOOK PART OF THE SAME; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of OUR INFIRMITIES; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. For verily he [Christ] took NOT on him THE NATURE OF ANGELS; but he took on him THE SEED OF ABRAHAM. Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."

Heb 10:5 "Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, BUT A BODY HAST THOU PREPARED ME:"

Jesus was born with a "special body", not unlike any other, which God prepared (He was God and yet 100% Man.

1 John 4:2 "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is COME IN THE FLESH is of God:"

Luke 1:35 "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holything which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

Note: It is worth noting here that Christ was called "that holy thing" How was he still "that holy thing" having had nature like ours? What this means is that even though He was born with a nature not unlike us, there was no taint of sin in him; he's character was not corrupted. This will become more evident as you consider further evidence.

Compilations of Spirit of Prophecy

### **INCARNATION-A PAINFUL PROCESS**

*"The work of redemption is called a mystery, and it is indeed the mystery by which everlasting righteousness is brought to all who believe. The race in consequence of sin was at enmity with God. Christ, at an infinite cost, BY A PAINFUL PROCESS, mysterious to angels as well as to men, assumed humanity. Hiding His divinity, laying aside His glory, He was born a babe in Bethlehem. In human flesh He lived the law of God, that He might condemn sin in the flesh, and bear witness to heavenly intelligences that the law was ordained to life and to ensure the happiness, peace, and eternal good of all who obey. But the same infinite sacrifice that is life to those who believe is a testimony of condemnation to the disobedient, speaking death and not life." {Ms29-1899.4}*

We are not told as to how exactly Christ became a human being but the incarnation of Christ was not without a "painful process."

### **DIVINITY AND HUMANITY MYSTERIOUSLY BLENDED**

*"Was the human nature of the Son of Mary changed into the divine nature of the Son of God? No; THE TWO NATURES WERE MYSTERIOUSLY BLENDED IN ONE PERSON-the man Christ Jesus. In Him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. When Christ was crucified, IT WAS HIS HUMAN NATURE THAT DIED, DEITY DID NOT SINK AND DIE; THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE. Christ, the sinless One, will save every son and daughter of Adam who accepts the salvation proffered them, consenting to become the children of God. The Saviour has purchased the fallen race with His own blood."—Letter 280, 1904 in Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 1113.2*

Note: The 2 natures (human and divine) were mysteriously blended into ONE PERSON, meaning Christ did not have two separate minds or 2 sets of consciousness... There was one personage-the Man Christ.

*“Looking upon Him in His humiliation, as He walked a man among men, they had not understood the mystery of His incarnation, the DUAL CHARACTER OF HIS NATURE.” {DA 507.1}*

*“...The two expressions human and divine were, in Christ, closely and inseparably one, AND YET THEY HAD A DISTINCT INDIVIDUALITY... {ST May 10, 1899, par. 11}*

*“His finite nature was pure and spotless, divine nature that led Him to say to Philip, ‘He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father’ also, was not humanized; neither was humanity deified by the blending or union of the two natures; EACH RETAINED ITS ESSENTIAL CHARACTER AND PROPERTIES.” {Manuscript Releases, vol. 16, p. 182 par.1}*

*“Christ could not have come to this earth with the glory that He had in the heavenly courts. Sinful human beings could not have borne the sight. He veiled His divinity with the garb of humanity, but HE DID NOT PART WITH HIS DIVINITY.” {Review and Herald, June 15, 1905}*

*“CHRIST HAD NOT EXCHANGED HIS DIVINITY FOR HUMANITY; but He had clothed His divinity in humanity.” {Review and Herald, Oct. 29, 1895}*

*“He united humanity with divinity: A DIVINE SPIRIT DWELT IN A TEMPLE OF FLESH. (The Youth’s Instructor, December 20, 1900)*

*“But although Christ’s divine glory was for a time veiled and eclipsed by His assuming humanity, yet HE DID NOT CEASE TO BE GOD when He became man. The human did not take the place of the divine, nor the divine of the human. This is the mystery of godliness. The two expressions ‘human’ and ‘divine’ were, in Christ, closely and inseparably one, and yet they had a distinct individuality. Though Christ humbled Himself to become man, THE GODHEAD WAS STILL HIS OWN.” {Signs of the Times, May 10, 1899 par.11}*

## **CHRIST’S DIVINITY WAS NOT DORMANT**

*“The Jews were continually seeking for and expecting a Divinity among them that would be revealed in outward show, and by one flash of overmastering will would change the current of all minds, force from them an acknowledgment of his superiority, elevate himself, and gratify the ambition of his people. This being the case, when Christ was treated with contempt, there was a powerful temptation before him to reveal his heavenly character, and to compel his persecutors to admit that he was Lord above kings and potentates, priests and temple. BUT IT WAS HIS DIFFICULT TASK TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF HUMANITY.” **3SP (1878) p. 260.1***

*“It was a difficult task for the Prince of Life to carry out the plan which He had undertaken for the salvation of man, in clothing His divinity with humanity. He had received honor in the heavenly courts and was familiar with absolute power. IT WAS AS DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO KEEP THE LEVEL OF HUMANITY AS FOR MEN TO RISE ABOVE THE LOW LEVEL OF THEIR DEPRAVED NATURES AND BE PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE.” {Con 85.1}*

### **FOREVER TO RETAIN HUMANITY**

He gave Him not only to bear our sins, and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, FOREVER TO RETAIN HIS HUMAN NATURE. This is the pledge that God will fulfill His word. “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.” God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven.

### **CHRIST WAS LIKE US FALLEN/SINFUL NATURE**

*“It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man's nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity WHEN THE RACE HAD BEEN WEAKENED BY FOUR THOUSAND YEARS OF SIN. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity. What these results were is shown in the history of His earthly ancestors. He came with such a heredity to share our sorrows and temptations, and to give us the example of a sinless life.” (DA 48,49)*

*“For four thousand years the race had been decreasing in physical strength, in mental power, and in moral worth; and Christ took upon Him the INFIRMITIES OF DEGENERATE HUMANITY. Only thus could He rescue man from the lowest depths of his degradation.” {DA p. 117}*

*“The example He has left must be followed. He took upon His sinless nature OUR SINFUL NATURE, that He might know how to succor those that are tempted.” {MM 181.3}*

*“It was in the order of God that Christ should take upon himself the FORM and NATURE of FALLEN man, that he might be made perfect through suffering, and himself endure the strength of Satan's fierce temptations, that he might understand how to succor those who should be tempted.” - 2SP 39.3*

***“As God He could not be tempted: but as a man He could be tempted, and that strongly, and could yield to the temptations... HIS HUMAN NATURE WAS CREATED; it did not even possess the angelic powers. It was human, IDENTICAL WITH OUR OWN.” {6MR 111.1}***

*"It was NOT A MAKE BELIEVE HUMANITY that Christ took upon Himself. He took human nature, and lived human nature. Christ's life represents a perfect manhood just that which you may be. He was in human nature. He took our infirmities. He was not only made flesh, but He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh." Letter No. 106, 1896.*

*"The great work of redemption could be carried forward only by the Redeemer taking the place of FALLEN ADAM. HE WOULD TAKE MAN'S FALLEN NATURE." Review, February 24, 1874.*

*What love! What amazing condescension! The King of glory proposed to humble Himself to fallen humanity! He would place His feet in Adam's steps. HE WOULD TAKE MAN'S FALLEN NATURE, and engage to cope with the strong foe who triumphed over Adam. He would overcome Satan, and in thus doing He would open the way for the redemption from the disgrace of Adam's failure and fall, of all those who would believe on Him. {Con 18.1}*

*"A HUMAN BODY AND HUMAN MIND WERE HIS. He was bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh." 3SM, 129.*

*"When Jesus took human nature, and became in fashion as a man, HE POSSESSED ALL THE HUMAN ORGANISM. His necessities were the necessities of a man. He had bodily wants to be supplied, bodily weariness to be relieved. By prayer to the Father He was braced for duty and for trial." (Letter 32, 1899) (EGW)*

*"Christ took humanity with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man with the possibility of yielding to temptation, and he relied upon divine power to keep him." (GCB February 25, 1895, Art. A, par. 6) (EGW)*

*"As God, Christ could not be tempted any more than He was not tempted from His allegiance in heaven. But as Christ humbled Himself to the nature of man, He could be tempted. He had not taken on Him even the nature of the angels, but HUMANITY, PERFECTLY IDENTICAL WITH OUR OWN NATURE, EXCEPT WITHOUT THE TAIN OF SIN. A HUMAN BODY, A HUMAN MIND, WITH ALL THE PECULIAR PROPERTIES, HE WAS BONE, BRAIN, AND MUSCLE. A man of our flesh, He was compassed with the weakness of humanity. The circumstances of His life were of that character that He was exposed to all the inconveniences that belong to men, not in wealth, not in ease, but in poverty and want and humiliation. He breathed the very air man must breathe. He trod our earth as man. He had reason, conscience, memory, will, and affections of the human soul which was united with His divine nature."—Manuscript Releases 16:181, 182. {TA 157.1}*

*"Christ's perfect humanity is the same that we may have through connection with Christ. As God, Christ could not be tempted any more than He was not tempted from His allegiance in heaven. But as Christ humbled Himself to our nature, He*

could be tempted. He had not taken on Him even the nature of the angels, BUT HUMANITY, PERFECTLY IDENTICAL WITH OUR OWN NATURE, EXCEPT WITHOUT TAIN OF SIN.... CTr 208.6

Here the test to Christ was far greater than that of Adam and Eve, FOR CHRIST TOOK OUR NATURE, FALLEN BUT NOT CORRUPTED, and would not be corrupted unless He received the words of Satan in the place of the words of God.—Manuscript 57, 1890

“IN TAKING UPON HIMSELF MAN’S NATURE IN ITS FALLEN CONDITION, CHRIST DID NOT IN THE LEAST PARTICIPATED IN TIS SIN. He was subject to the infirmities and weaknesses by which man is encompassed, "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." He was touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and was in all points tempted like as we are. And yet He "knew no sin." He was the lamb "without blemish and without spot." Could Satan in the least particular have tempted Christ to sin, he would have bruised the Saviour's head. As it was, he could only touch His heel. Had the head of Christ been touched, the hope of the human race would have perished. Divine wrath would have come upon Christ as it came upon Adam. Christ and the church would have been without hope.” {5BC 1131.3}

## **CHRIST’S TEMPTATIONS**

Websters 1828, "A mere inclination to a thing is not properly a willing of that thing."

"..the soul MUST PURPOSE the sinful act BEFORE passion can dominate over reason, or iniquity triumph over conscience." {5 Testimonies, 177}

“Bear in mind that Christ’s overcoming and obedience is that of a true human being. In our conclusions, we make many mistakes because of our erroneous views of the human nature of our Lord. WHEN WE GIVE TO HIS HUMAN NATURE A POWER THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR MAN TO HAVE IN HIS CONFLICTS WITH SATAN, WE DESTROY THE COMPLETENESS OF HIS HUMANITY. His imputed grace and power He gives to all who receive Him by faith. The obedience of Christ to His Father was the same obedience that is required of man.” {3SM 139.4}

“He was a mighty petitioner, NOT POSSESSING THE PASSIONS OF OUR HUMAN, FALLEN NATURES, but COMPASSED WITH LIKE INFIRMITIES, TEMPTED IN ALL POINTS even as we are.” E.G. White, Testimonies Vol. 2, p509.

“THE HUMAN NATURE OF CHRIST WAS LIKE UNTO OURS, AND SUFFERING WAS MORE KEENLY FELT BY HIM; FOR HIS SPIRITUAL NATURE WAS FREE FROM EVERY TAIN OF SIN. Therefore his desire for the removal of suffering was stronger than human beings can experience. How intense was the desire of the humanity of Christ to escape the displeasure of an offended God, how his soul

*longed for relief, is revealed in the words, "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done." {ST, December 9, 1897 par. 4}*

*"Christ was tempted by Satan in a hundredfold severer manner than was Adam, and under circumstances in every way more trying. The deceiver presented himself as an angel of light, but Christ withstood his temptations. He redeemed Adam's disgraceful fall, and saved the world." {YI, June 2, 1898 par. 7}*

*"Would that we could comprehend the significance of the words, "Christ suffered, being tempted." While he was free from the taint of sin, the refined sensibilities of his holy nature rendered contact with evil unspeakably painful to him." {RH, November 8, 1887 par. 8}*

*"Though He had ALL the STRENGTH of passion of humanity, NEVER DID HE YIELD TO TEMPTATION to do one single act which was not pure and elevating and ennobling. {Heavenly Places, 155.}*

*"Should He [Christ] give the least sanction to sin, His throne would be corrupted..." (FH 95.4) (EGW)*

*"The human family have all the help that Christ had in their conflicts with Satan. They need not be overcome. They may be more than conquerors through Him who has loved them and given His life for them. "Ye are bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:20). And what a price! THE SON OF GOD IN HIS HUMANITY WRESTLED WITH THE VERY SAME FIERCE, APPARENTLY OVERWHELMING TEMPTATIONS THAT ASSAIL MEN-TEMPTATIONS TO INDULGENCE OF APPETITE, TO PRESUMPTUOUS VENTURING WHERE GOD HAS NOT LED THEM, and to the worship of the god of this world, to sacrifice an eternity of bliss for the fascinating pleasures of this life. Everyone will be tempted, but the Word declares that we shall not be tempted above our ability to bear. We may resist and defeat the wily foe." {1SM 95.3}*

*"The doctrine of the incarnation of Christ in human flesh is a mystery, "even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations." It is the great and profound mystery of godliness. "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." Christ took upon Himself human nature, a nature inferior to His heavenly nature. Nothing so shows the wonderful condescension of God as this....CHRIST DID NOT MAKE-BELIEVE TAKE HUMAN NATURE; HE DID VERILY TAKE IT. He did in reality possess human nature. "As the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same." He was the Son of Mary; He was of the seed of David according to human descent. He is declared to be a man, even the man Christ Jesus. "This man," writes Paul, "was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honor than the house" (The Review and Herald, April 5, 1906). {5BC 1130.6}{5BC 1130.7}*

*Our sufficiency is found only in the incarnation and death of the Son of God. He could suffer, because sustained by divinity. He could endure, because HE WAS WITHOUT ONE TAIN OF DISLOYALTY OR SIN. Christ TRIUMPHED IN MAN'S*

*BEHALF in thus bearing the justice of punishment. He secured eternal life to men, while He exalted the law, and made it honorable. {1SM 302.1}*

## **CHRIST WAS NOT LIKE US-HE HAD NO TAIN OF SIN NOR DISLOYAL DISPOSITIONS**

*"In every possible way SATAN SOUGHT TO PREVENT JESUS FROM DEVELOPING A PERFECT CHILDHOOD, a faultless manhood, a holy ministry, and an unblemished sacrifice. But he was defeated. He could not lead Jesus into sin. He could not discourage Him, or drive Him from the work He had come to this earth to do. From the desert to Calvary the storm of Satan's wrath beat upon Him, but the more mercilessly it fell, he more firmly did the Son of God cling to the hand of His Father, and press on in the blood-stained path" (Manuscript 140, 1903). {5BC 1130.1}*

*"He is a brother in our infirmities, but NOT in possessing like passions . . . While He WAS a child, He THOUGHT and SPOKE as a child, but no trace of sin marred the image of God in Him. Yet He was not exempt from temptation. He was subject to all the conflicts which we have to meet." 2 Testimonies, 202.*

*The Son of God, who is the express image of the Father's person, became man's Advocate and Redeemer. HE HUMBLING HIMSELF IN TAKING THE NATURE OF MAN IN HIS FALLEN CONDITION, BUT HE DID NOT TAKE THE TAIN OF SIN. As the second Adam He must pass over the ground where Adam fell, meet the wily foe who caused Adam's and Eve's fall, and be tempted in all points as man will be tempted, and overcome every temptation in behalf of man. To Him should man look—to Him who endured the "contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." Hebrews 12:3. While every human being is to be loved for Christ's sake, not one is to be looked to as supreme in counsel and unerring in wisdom. {Ms93-1893.7}*

*"Though HE HAD NO TAIN OF SIN UPON HIS CHARACTER, yet He condescended to connect our fallen human nature with His divinity. By thus taking humanity, He honored humanity. HAVING TAKEN OUR FALLEN NATURE, he showed what it might become, by accepting the ample provision He has made for it, and by becoming partaker of the divine nature.--Letter 81, 1896. {3SM 134.2}*

***"Be careful, exceedingly careful as to how you dwell upon the human nature of Christ. DO NOT SET HIM BEFORE THE PEOPLE AS A MAN WITH THE PROPENSITIES OF SIN. He is the second Adam. The first Adam was created a pure, sinless being, without a taint of sin upon him; he was in the image of God. He could fall, and he did fall through transgressing. BECAUSE OF SIN HIS POSTERITY WAS BORN WITH INHERENT PROPENSITIES OF DISOBEDIENCE. But Jesus Christ was the only begotten Son of God. He took upon Himself human nature, and was tempted in all points as human nature is tempted. He could have sinned; He could have fallen, BUT NOT FOR ONE MOMENT WAS THERE IN HIM AN EVIL PROPENSITY. He was assailed with temptations in the wilderness, as Adam was assailed with temptations in Eden." {5BC 1128.4}***

*"In treating upon the humanity of Christ, you need to guard strenuously every assertion, lest your words be taken to mean more than they imply, and thus you lose or dim the clear perceptions of His humanity as combined with divinity. His birth was a miracle of God.... NEVER, IN ANY WAY, LEAVE THE SLIGHTEST IMPRESSION UPON HUMAN MINDS THAT A TAIN OF, OR INCLINATION TO, CORRUPTION RESTED UPON CHRIST, OR THAT HE IN ANY WAY YIELDED TO CORRUPTION. He was tempted in all points like as man is tempted, yet HE IS CALLED "THAT HOLY THING." It is a mystery that is left unexplained to mortals that Christ could be tempted in all points like as we are, and yet be without sin. The incarnation of Christ has ever been, and will ever remain, a mystery. That which is revealed, is for us and for our children, but let every human being be warned from the ground of making Christ altogether human, such an one as ourselves; for it cannot be."—The S.D.A. Bible Commentary 5:1128, 1129.*

*Christ was the only one who walked the earth UPON WHOM THERE RESTED NO TAIN OF SIN. HE WAS PURE, SPOTLESS, AND UNDEFILED. That there should be One without the defilement of sin upon the earth, greatly disturbed the author of sin, and he left no means untried to overcome Christ with his wily, deceptive power. But our Saviour relied upon His heavenly Father for wisdom and strength to resist and overcome the tempter. The Spirit of His heavenly Father animated and regulated His life. He was sinless. Virtue and purity characterized His life.—The Youth's Instructor, February, 1873. {3SM 134.1}*

*"Though HE HAD NO TAIN OF SIN UPON HIS CHARACTER, yet He condescended to CONNECT OUR FALLEN HUMAN NATURE WITH HIS DIVINITY. By thus taking humanity, He honored humanity. Having taken our fallen nature, HE SHOWED WHAT IT MIGHT BECOME BY ACCEPTING THE AMPLE PROVISION HE HAS MADE FOR IT, AND BY BECOMING A PARTAKER OF THE DIVINE NATURE." (Letter 81, 1896)*

*"Through being partakers of the divine nature we may stand pure and holy and undefiled. The Godhead was not made human, and the human was not deified by the blending together of the two natures. Christ DID NOT POSSESS THE SAME SINFUL, CORRUPT, FALLEN DISLOYALTY WE POSSESS, FOR THEN HE COULD NOT BE A PERFECT OFFERING." {Ms94-1893.8}*

*"He is our example in all things. HE IS A BROTHER IN OUR INFIRMITIES, but NOT IN POSSESSING LIKE PASSIONS. As the sinless One, His nature recoiled from evil." E.G. White, Testimonies Vol. 2, p202.*

*"Clad in the vestments of humanity, the Son of God came down to the level of those he wished to save. IN HIM WAS NO GUILLE OR SINFULNESS; HE WAS EVER PURE AND UNDEFILED; YET HE TOOK UPON HIM OUR SINFUL NATURE. Clothing his divinity with humanity, that he might associate with fallen humanity, he sought to regain for man that which, by disobedience, Adam had lost for himself and for the world. In his own character he displayed to the world the character of God. He pleased not himself, but went about doing good. His whole history, for more than thirty years, was one of pure, disinterested benevolence. By his words, his influence, and his example, he made men feel that it was*

*possible for them to return to their loyalty and be reinstated in God's favor. He led them to see that if they repented, if their characters were transformed after the divine similitude, they would win immortality." RH December 15, 1896, par. 7*

*Christ was free from every taint of selfishness. {RH March 28, 1893}*

*"not a single thought or feeling responded to temptation."--Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 422. {7ABC 450.8}*

*"Christ was not insensible to ignominy and disgrace. He felt it all most bitterly. He felt it as much more deeply and acutely than we can feel suffering, as HIS NATURE WAS MORE EXALTED AND PURE AND HOLY THAN THAT OF THE SINFUL RACE for whom He suffered." (TMK 339*

*Through being partakers of the divine nature we may stand pure and holy and undefiled. The Godhead was not made human, and the HUMAN WAS NOT DEIFIED BY BLENDING TOGETHER OF THE TWO NATURE. Christ did NOT POSSESS THE SAME SINFUL, CORRUPT, FALLEN DISLOYALTY WE POSSESS, for then He could not be a perfect offering.—Manuscript 94, 1893. {3SM 131.1}*

## **INCARNATE CHRIST WAS "ONE WITH GOD" FROM BIRTH**

*"Jesus was made one with God. [See Patriarchs and Prophets, 37, 38.] His exaltation created envy and jealousy in Satan's heart. Satan insisted that God had not dealt with him justly. He criticized God's plan of government. He declared the divine law to be arbitrary, detrimental to the interests of the heavenly universe, and in need of change." {Ms1-1902.2}*

Note: This Ms1-1902 quote, according to its plain reading, indicates that, "Jesus WAS MADE one with God" and this is clearly speaking about Him in His pre-existence because "His exaltation created envy and jealousy in Satan's heart."

This quote reveals that Jesus was "made" one with God. Now WHEN did this occur? When was He made one with God? The quote in Patriarchs and Prophets (and I suggest that you read from pg 36) tells us that when God declared His Son's true position this was not a change in His Son's position or authority but that this had been the same "from the beginning."

*"There had been no change in the position or authority of Christ. Lucifer's envy and misrepresentation and his claims to equality with Christ had made necessary a statement of the true position of the Son of God; but this had been the same from the beginning. Many of the angels were, however, blinded by Lucifer's deceptions. {PP 38.1}*

*"From all eternity Christ was united with the Father, and WHEN HE TOOK UPON HIMSELF HUMAN NATURE, "HE WAS STILL ONE WITH GOD". He is the link that unites God with humanity." [Hebrews 2:14 quoted] (ST Aug. 2, 1905)*

QUESTION: What does it mean that Christ was “STILL ONE WITH GOD?”

*"The unity that exists between Christ and His disciples does not destroy the personality of either. THEY ARE ONE IN PURPOSE, IN MIND, IN CHARACTER, BUT NOT IN PERSON. IT IS THUS THAT GOD AND CHRIST ARE "ONE". {8T 268.2 - 269.4}*

Note: According to SOP, Being “one with God” means to be “one in purpose, in mind, in character” with God. Are we born “one with God”? No. But this was the condition in which Christ came as a man. Though Christ assumed a sinful or a fallen nature, He was NOT born with a CARNAL MIND as we are BORN with; He did not possess any inherent sinful propensities. Why? Because He was born of the Spirit FROM HIS CONCEPTION-He was as it were, “born again” from birth, meaning, He assumed, as His incarnate birth, the nature and the condition that we also have the privilege to assume, if we were to be born again. ... He was born with the disposition that was not at war with Also, in a special way, angels and the power of God was guiding him, through his mother, while he was helpless.

This also demonstrates that Christ, though he was and is 100 percent divine he laid aside His divine power (BUT NOT DORMANT, HE VOLUNTARILY DID NOT EXERCISE IT) - As a baby he wasn't even conscious that he was God, it would have been impossible to exercise His divine powers - he was truly a helpless baby.

**What above statements reveal about Christ’s nature:**

- He took on our “sinful nature” with the “infirmities of degenerate humanity”.
- Christ was NOT “a man with the propensities of sin”
- “He could have sinned;”
- “He could have fallen,”
- “but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity.”
- “upon whom there rested no taint of sin.”
- No “inclination to corruption”
- “He was pure, spotless, and undefiled.”
- He was called “that Holy Thing”
- Christ’s divinity was not dormant; it was difficult for Christ to maintain His humanity.
- Had a “HUMAN MIND” (no indication here of a corrupt mind; Christ had a human mind not unlike first Adam’s “human mind”)
- “IDENTICAL” means he was 100% human. This does not, necessarily mean that, he had a corrupt mind like us; nor does it mean He had an INHERENT propensities of disobedience like us from birth (as we will see later).
- Christ did not possess a single, evil propensities. But that does not necessarily mean the fallen human nature he assumed was not morally degenerate, weak, and wretched.

## **COMPARE THIS WITH THE FIRST ADAM BEFORE THE FALL**

*“Adam's Fall Inexplainable.--In what consisted the strength of the assault made upon Adam, which caused his fall? It was not indwelling sin; for God made Adam after His own character, pure and upright. THERE WERE NO CORRUPT PRINCIPLES IN THE FIRST ADAM, NO CORRUPT PROPENSITIES OR TENDENCIES TO EVIL. Adam was as faultless as the angels before God's throne. These things are inexplainable, but many things which now we cannot understand will be made plain when we shall see as we are seen, and know as we are known (Letter 191, 1899).” {1BC 11 1083.6}*

*“When Adam was assailed by the tempter in Eden, HE WAS WITHOUT TAIN OF SIN. He stood before God in the strength of perfect manhood. All the organs and faculties of his being were equally developed, and harmoniously balanced.” {Con 31.4}*

*“In what consisted the strength of the assault made upon Adam, which caused his fall? IT WAS NOT INDWELLING SIN; for God made Adam after His own character, pure and upright. There were NO CORRUPT PRINCIPLES in the first Adam, NO CORRUPT PROPENSITIES OR TENDENCIES TO EVIL.” (Letter 191, 1899) (EGW)*

Note: The first Adam had no corrupt principles, no corrupt propensities or tendencies to evil. As you can see clearly, Christ, while he had the fallen nature, He had the same untainted perfect moral character as un-fallen Adam. Hence, we can reasonably conclude that Christ was like Adam BEFORE the fall as far as his moral character was concerned but he bore the nature of Adam AFTER the fall.

## **WHAT ABOUT OUR HUMAN NATURE?**

*“In the beginning, man was created in the image of God. He was in perfect harmony with the nature and the law of God; the principles of righteousness were written upon his heart. But sin alienated him from his Maker. He no longer reflected the divine image. His heart was at war with the principles of God's law. “The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” Romans 8:7.” (GC 467.2) (EGW)*

Note: Therefore, since we are all the descendants of Adam, we are all born with inherent propensities of disobedience. Just from this statement alone, we can see that we are born differently than Christ.

*“Every seed of evil which is sown reproduces the evil of the original sin, increasing the curse brought upon the world by disobedience.” — Ms97-1901.24 • EGW*

*“THROUGH SIN the whole human organism is deranged, THE MIND IS PERVERTED, THE IMAGINATION CORRUPTED. Sin has degraded the faculties of the soul. Temptations from without find an answering chord within the heart, and the feet turn imperceptibly toward evil.” (MH 451.2) (EGW)*

*“To a large degree Satan has succeeded in the execution of his plans. Through the medium of influence, taking advantage of the action of MIND ON MIND, he prevailed on Adam to sin. Thus AT ITS VERY SOURCE HUMAN NATURE WAS CORRUPTED. And ever since then sin has continued its hateful work, reaching from mind to mind. Every sin committed awakens the echoes of the original sin.” (RH April 16, 1901 par. 5) (EGW)*

*“THE INHERITANCE OF CHILDREN IS THAT OF SIN. Sin has separated them from God. Jesus gave His life that He might unite the broken links to God. As related to the first Adam, MEN RECEIVED FROM HIM NOTHING BUT GUILT and the sentence of death. But Christ steps in and passes over the ground where Adam fell, enduring every test in man's behalf. He redeems Adam's disgraceful failure and fall by coming forth from the trial untarnished. This places man on vantage ground with God. It places him where, through accepting Christ as his Saviour, he becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Thus he becomes connected with God and Christ.” — Letter 68, 1899 • EGW*

*“Adam was required to render perfect obedience to God, not only in his own behalf, but in behalf of his posterity... But Adam failed to bear the test. And because he revolted against God's law, ALL HIS DESCENDANTS HAVE BEEN SINNERS.” {9MR 229.1}*

*“As a result of Adam's disobedience EVERY HUMAN BEING IS A TRANSGRESSOR OF THE LAW, SOLD UNDER SIN. Unless he repents and is converted, he is under bondage to the law, serving Satan, falling into the deceptions of the enemy, and bearing witness against the precepts of Jehovah.” {HP 146.4}*

*“The INHERITANCE OF CHILDREN IS THAT OF SIN. Sin has separated them from God. Jesus gave His life that He might unite the broken links to God. As related to the first Adam, men receive from him NOTHING BUT GUILT and the sentence of death.”<sup>16</sup> {CG 475.3}*

*“HUMAN NATURE IS DEPRAVED, AND IS JUSTLY CONDEMNED BY A HOLY GOD. But provision is made for the repenting sinner, so that by faith in the atonement of the only begotten Son of God, he may receive forgiveness of sin, find justification, receive adoption into the heavenly family, and become an inheritor of the kingdom of God.” {RH September 17, 1895, par. 7}*

*“But Satan's aim has been to lead men to self first; and yielding themselves to his control, they have developed a selfishness that has filled the world with misery and strife, setting human beings at variance with one another. SELFISHNESS IS THE ESSENCE OF DEPRAVITY...” {ST December 25, 1901, par. 9}*

*“It is plainly written on the unrenewed heart and on a fallen world, All seek their own. SELFISHNESS IS THE GREAT LAW OF OUR DEGENERATE NATURE. Selfishness occupies that place in the soul where Christ should sit enthroned.” {ST December 8, 1881, par. 5}*

*“SELFISHNESS IS INWROUGHT IN OUR VERY BEING. It has come to us as an inheritance,” (Historical Sketches, 138, 139). {LHU 326.4}*

*“Concerning the creation of Adam it is said, ‘In the likeness of God made He him;’ but man, after the Fall, ‘begat a son in his own likeness, after his image.’ While Adam was created sinless, in the likeness of God, Seth, like Cain, INHERITED THE FALLEN NATURE OF HIS PARENTS...” (PP 80.1)*

*"As we partake of the divine nature, HEREDITARY AND CULTIVATED TENDENCIES to wrong are cut away from the character, and we are made a living power for good." (The Review and Herald, April 24, 1900). {7BC 943.2}*

*“This enmity was spoken of in Eden. God declared to Satan, “I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.” This enmity was revealed as soon as man transgressed God's law. His NATURE became EVIL. He formed a confederacy with the enemy of God. Fallen men and fallen angels have united in a desperate companionship against good. Satan does all in his power to lead men to work with him. Christ has pledged Himself to engage in conflict with the prince of darkness, and Christ's soldiers, the chosen of God, war against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” BEcho September 3, 1900, par. 3*

*“When man transgressed the divine law, his NATURE BECAME EVIL, AND HE WAS IN HARMONY, AND NOT AT VARIANCE, WITH SATAN.” {GC88 506}*

*Many have to battle against strong hereditary tendencies to evil. Unnatural cravings, sensual impulses, were their INHERITANCE FROM BIRTH. {MH 173.3}*

*“We have reason for ceaseless gratitude to God that Christ, by His perfect obedience, has won back the heaven that Adam lost through disobedience. ADAM SINNED, AND THE CHILDREN OF ADAM SHARE HIS GUILT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES; but Jesus bore the guilt of Adam, and all the children of Adam THAT WILL FLEE TO CHRIST, the second Adam, may escape the penalty of transgression.” {FW 88.3}*

*“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. . . . Even so by the righteousness of One the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.” ADAM'S FALL IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN CAUSED ALL TO SIN; but in the Garden of Gethsemane Christ drank the bitter cup of suffering and death, that whosoever BELIEVES in Him may not perish, but have everlasting life.” {ST, June 13, 1900}*

*"AS A RESULT OF ADAM'S DISOBEDIENCE, EVERY HUMAN BEING IS A TRANSGRESSOR OF THE LAW, AND IS SOLD UNDER SIN. UNLESS man repents and is converted, he is under bondage of the law, serving Satan, falling into the deceptions of the enemy, bearing witness against the precepts of Jehovah. Only by perfect obedience to the requirements of God's holy law can man be justified. Let those whose natures have been perverted by sin, ever keep their eyes fixed on Christ, the author and the finisher of their faith." {8MR 98.1}*

Note: In EVERY instance, man (including babies) is in a fallen condition without exception, separated from God, suffering the consequences of Adam's sin. While Christ and us share the same identical nature as far as our physical degenerate fallen flesh, we have inherent, corrupted, disloyal disposition whereas Christ didn't. No corruption can enter heaven, even babies. There is always a condition revealed in the quotes above: coming to Christ. Since a baby cannot come to Christ, then it is the parents responsibility to ask that the blood of Christ covered their children.

Notice also the following statement:

*"Wrong tendencies, perverted appetites, and debased morals, as well as physical disease and degeneracy, ARE TRANSMITTED AS A LEGACY FROM FATHER TO SON, TO THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION. This fearful truth should have solemn power to restrain men from following a course of sin" Patriarchs and Prophets, p.306*

Above statements reveal how, "hereditary" tendencies, "Wrong tendencies, perverted appetites, and debased morals, as well as physical disease and degeneracy, ARE TRANSMITTED from generation to generation....

**In summary, let's review by highlighting 3 key points:**

### **1. HE TOOK ON OUR FALLEN/SINFUL NATURE**

- "In him was no guile or sinfulness; he was ever pure and undefiled; YET HE TOOK UPON HIM OUR SINFUL NATURE." {RH December 15, 1896, par. 7}
- "Here the test to Christ was far greater than that of Adam and Eve, FOR CHRIST TOOK OUR NATURE, FALLEN BUT NOT CORRUPTED, and would not be corrupted unless He received the words of Satan in the place of the words of God." {Manuscript 57, 1890}

### **2. HE DID NOT POSSESS THE SAME SINFUL, CORRUPT, FALLEN DISLOYALTY WE POSSESS**

- "Christ did not possess the same sinful, corrupt, fallen disloyalty we possess, for then He could not be a perfect offering." Manuscript 94, 1893. {3SM 131.1}
- "HE WAS WITHOUT ONE TAIN OF DISLOYALTY OR SIN. Christ TRIUMPHED IN MAN'S BEHALF in thus bearing the justice of punishment. He secured eternal life to men, while He exalted the law, and made it honorable." {1SM 302.1}

### 3. CHRIST HAD SAME FALLEN/SINFUL NATURE BUT DIFFERENT DISPOSITION

If Christ took upon Himself our 'sinful nature', BUT DID "NOT POSSESS THE SAME SINFUL, CORRUPT, FALLEN DISLOYALTY [inherent evil propensity] WE POSSESS", THEN the "sinful, corrupt propensities" of man cannot be the same as "sinful nature" that Christ took upon Himself.

Thus, we must conclude the "sinful nature" must be something else, other than our inherent fallen/sinful, corrupt (selfish) propensities.

Again, so we do not mistake the "inherent propensity to sin" as the "sinful nature" itself, EGW contrasts these things against each other:

*"Because of sin his [ADAM'S] posterity was born with **INHERENT PROPENSITIES OF DISOBEDIENCE**. But Jesus Christ was the only begotten Son of God. He took upon Himself human nature, and was tempted in all points as human nature is tempted. He could have sinned; He could have fallen, but **NOT FOR ONE MOMENT WAS THERE IN HIM AN EVIL PROPENSITY**. He was assailed with temptations in the wilderness, as Adam was assailed with temptations in Eden." {5BC 1128.4}*

Did you catch that? Are you seeing the juxtaposition between Adam's "posterity" (Adam's descendants after his fall) vs. incarnate Christ?

Adam's posterity (that's us) are born with "**INHERENT PROPENSITIES OF DISOBEDIENCE.**" In contrast, while Christ took upon Himself our fallen/sinful nature, "**NOT FOR ONE MOMENT WAS THERE IN HIM AN EVIL PROPENSITY.**" Here we find the fundamental difference between how a fallen man is born vs. how the incarnate Christ was born.

- **Fallen Adam and his posterity: fallen/sinful nature WITH inherent propensities of disobedience (corrupt, fallen disloyalty)**
- **Incarnate Christ: fallen/sinful nature BUT WITHOUT inherent propensities of disobedience (corrupt, fallen disloyalty)**

So again, we see that the fallen, sinful human nature that Christ took upon Himself does not include any "evil propensity."

\*While I do believe we were all born with "INHERENT PROPENSITIES OF DISOBEDIENCE." and Christ was not, this however does not negate the fact that Christ had "fallen tendencies."

The following statement seems to affirm this:

*"Though He had ALL the STRENGTH of passion of humanity, NEVER DID HE YIELD TO TEMPTATION to do one single act which was not pure and elevating and ennobling. {Heavenly Places, 155.}*

*During His Gathsemane experience, His internal will was that of not wanting to go through with the experience, which was different than the Father's will but He ultimately submitted to His Father's will. (Mt 26:42)*

*During His temptation in the wilderness, where He was tempted to turn stones into bread, His inner passions (hunger/to want to exercise His divinity), though not evil in it of themselves, were contending against His loyalty to His Father. Had he yielded, He would have sinned and consequently would have cultivated his inherited tendencies of disloyalty. But thank God, He was obedient even unto death. (Mt 4:3,4)*

### **So then what was the “fallen/sinful nature” that Christ inherited?**

Isaiah 53:4 KJV “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”

Matthew 8:17 “That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself **TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES**, and bare our sicknesses.”

\* Interesting to note here that Matthew 8 uses the expression “infirmities” as He refers to Isaiah 53 and the Inspiration affirms this:

*Sister White explains, “In taking upon Himself man's nature in its fallen condition, Christ did not in the least participate in its sin. HE WAS SUBJECT TO THE INFIRMITIES AND WEAKNESSES BY WHICH MAN IS ENCOMPASSED “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself **TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES, AND BARE OUR SICKNESSES.**” HE WAS TOUCHED WITH THE FEELING OF OUR INFIRMITIES, and was in all points tempted like as we are. And yet He “knew no sin.”” {5BC 1131.3}*

*Consider this statement again, “For four thousand years the race had been **DECREASING IN PHYSICAL STRENGTH, IN MENTAL POWER, AND IN MORAL WORTH;** and Christ took upon Him the **INFIRMITIES OF DEGENERATE HUMANITY.** Only thus could He rescue man from the lowest depths of his degradation.” {DA p. 117}*

*We also read, “Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by 4000 years of sin. Like every child of Adam HE **ACCEPTED THE RESULTS OF THE WORKING OF THE LAW OF HEREDITY.** These results were shown in the history of His earthly ancestors. HE CAME WITH SUCH A HEREDITY TO **SHARE OUR TEMPTATIONS AND GIVE US THE EXAMPLE OF A SINLESS LIFE.**” {HLv 28.1}*

So then, the “sinful nature” Christ took upon Himself had nothing to do with any “evil propensity,” but it had to do with Him taking on the **“weaknesses” of fallen humanity that sin had caused by the “working of the law of heredity.”** For “He came with such a heredity to share our temptations and give us the example of a sinless life.”

Therefore, the sinful nature cannot be a “evil propensity” or “evil inclination”, but must refer to the “fallen” condition of humanity and the “weaknesses” and “infirmities” that sin has brought upon the race through the law of heredity. Hence Christ took upon Himself our “sinful nature while also having no “evil propensity.” This does not however negate the fallen “tendencies”. What do I mean?

### **CHRIST OUR EXAMPLE-A NEW BIRTH**

**Christ was born “born again” from birth. Obviously Christ did not have any taint of sin nor was there a need for Him to be converted from a carnal mind, but His incarnate birth serves as an example of what we can hope to experience as a born-again sons/daughters of God; born of the Spirit, partaking of divine nature and being fully connected with the Father.**

Father’s Spirit dwelt in Christ from birth. We must also allow the Spirit of God to dwell in us once born again.

Christ partook of the divine nature. We must also partake of the divine nature.

*“The Son of God was in the form of God, and he thought it not robbery to be equal with God. He was the only one, who as a man walked the earth, who could say to all men, Who of you convinceth me of sin? He had united with the Father in the creation of man, and HE HAD POWER THROUGH HIS OWN DIVINE PERFECTION OF CHARACTER to atone for man’s sin, AND TO ELEVATE HIM, AND BRING HIM BACK TO HIS FIRST ESTATE.” {RH December 17, 1872, par. 5}*

*“The enemy was overcome by Christ in his human nature. The power of the Saviour’s Godhead was hidden. He overcame in human nature, relying upon God for power.” - YI April 25, 1901*

*"He could not come in the form of an angel; for unless HE MET MAN AS MAN, AND TESTIFIED BY HIS CONNECTION WITH GOD that divine power was not given to Him in a different way to what it will be given to us, He could not be a perfect example for us. He came in humility, in order that the humblest being upon the face of the earth could HAVE NO EXCUSE because of his poverty, or ignorance, and say, Because of these things, I cannot obey the law of Jehovah. Christ clothed His divinity with humanity, that humanity might touch humanity; that He might live with humanity and bear all the trials and afflictions of man. He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. In His humanity He understood all the temptations that will come to man.” (Ms 21, 1895). {7BC 925}*

### **His Spiritual powers were strengthened**

*“He was filled with divine wisdom, and through the study of nature, and by meditation upon and communion with God, his spiritual powers were strengthened.” - YI July 13, 1893*

## **WE MAY OVERCOME AS CHRIST OVERCAME-CHARACTER PERFECTION IS POSSIBLE**

Hebrews 5:8 “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;”

*If Christ's humanity was different than ours, does this mean that Christ had an advantage over us? No! Because, we are told “CHRIST’S PERFECT HUMANITY IS THE SAME THAT MAN \*\*\*MAY\*\*\* HAVE through connection with Christ.” {Ms57-1890, par. 8}*

*Because of what Christ went through, He lifts us up to where He is, it places man on vantage ground. “IT PLACES HIM WHERE, THROUGH ACCEPTING CHRIST AS HIS SAVIOUR, HE BECOMES A PARTAKER OF THE DIVINE NATURE. THUS BECOMES CONNECTED WITH GOD AND CHRIST.” (Letter 68, 1899)*

*When we are born again, we have every advantage He had. Why? Because Christ came to “take away their inclination to sin, that they might not desire to transgress. Those who receive Christ are obedient to his commands; for his mind is given to them. He imbues them with his spirit of obedience, and they return to their loyalty.” {YI, April 6, 1899 par. 3}*

*At the new birth, man receives “His mind,” that they might have no “inclination” or “desire” to sin — thus placing man on the same plain on which Christ overcame sin, that man might have every advantage Christ has to overcome. With Christ’s Spirit of obedience and His power and His mind, they might like Christ “not be corrupted unless” they, unlike Christ, “received the words of Satan in the place of the words of God.” {Ms57-1890, par. 8-11}*

Through the “new birth” we are given the same new spiritual nature that Christ had on earth. We can have the same vital connection with the Father as Christ had. Not only Christ did not have an advantage over us, but He had harder struggles and temptations than we do.

*“As related to the first Adam, men receive from him nothing but guilt and the sentence of death. But Christ steps in and passes over the ground where Adam fell, enduring every test in man's behalf. He redeems Adam's disgraceful failure and fall by coming forth from the trial untarnished. THIS PLACES MAN ON VANTAGE GROUND WITH GOD. IT PLACES HIM WHERE, THROUGH ACCEPTING CHRIST AS HIS SAVIOUR, HE BECOMES A PARTAKER OF THE DIVINE NATURE. THUS BECOMES CONNECTED WITH GOD AND CHRIST.” (Letter 68, 1899).” {6BC 1074.7}*

*“CHRIST’S PERFECT HUMANITY IS THE SAME THAT MAN MAY HAVE THROUGH CONNECTION WITH CHRIST. As God, Christ could not be tempted any more than He was not tempted from His allegiance in heaven. But as Christ humbled Himself to the nature of man, He could be tempted. He had not taken on Him even the nature of the angels, but humanity, perfectly identical with our own nature, except without the taint of sin. A human body, a human mind, with all the*

*peculiar properties, He was bone, brain, and muscle. A man of our flesh, He was compassed with the weakness of humanity. The circumstances of His life were of that character that He was exposed to all the inconveniences that belong to men, not in wealth, not in ease, but in poverty and want and humiliation. He breathed the very air man must breathe. He trod our earth as man. He had reason, conscience, memory, will, and affections of the human soul which was united with His divine nature.” Ms57-1890.8*

*“We need not place the obedience of Christ by itself as something for which he was particularly adapted, because of his divine nature; for he stood before God as man's representative, and was tempted as man's substitute and surety.” - ST April 10, 1893, par. 3*

*Cry unto the Lord, tempted soul. Cast yourself, helpless, unworthy, upon Jesus, and claim His very promise. The Lord will hear. HE KNOWS HOW STRONG ARE THE INCLINATIONS OF THE NATURAL HEART, and He will help in every time of temptation. {5T 177.2}*

*The Lord Jesus came to our world, NOT TO REVEAL WHAT A GOD COULD DO, BUT WHAT A MAN COULD DO THROUGH FAITH in God's power to help in every emergency. Man is, through faith, to be a partaker in the divine nature, and to overcome every temptation wherewith he is beset. {Ms1-1892}*

*"The old nature, born of blood and the will of the flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The old ways, the hereditary tendencies, the former habits, must be given up; for grace is not inherited. The new birth consists in having new motives, new tastes, new tendencies. Those who are begotten unto a new life by the Holy Spirit, have become partakers of the divine nature, and in all their habits and practices they will give evidence of their relationship to Christ." 6BC 1101*

*“How can the carnal mind harmonize with the mind that is assimilated to the mind of Christ? One is sowing to the flesh, thinking and acting in accordance with the promptings of his own heart; the other is sowing to the Spirit, seeking to repress selfishness, to overcome inclination, and to live in obedience to the Master, whose servant he professes to be. Thus there is a perpetual difference of taste, of inclination, and of purpose.” (4T 507) (EGW)*

*"We must learn of Christ. We must know what He is to those He has ransomed. We must realize that **through belief in Him** it is our privilege to be partakers of the divine nature, and so escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. **Then we are cleansed from all sin, all defects of character. We need not retain one sinful propensity....** [Ephesians 2:1-6 quoted.] ... {7BC 943.1}*

***As we partake of the divine nature, HEREDITARY AND CULTIVATED TENDENCIES to wrong are cut away from the character, and we are made a living power for good.** Ever learning of the divine Teacher, daily partaking of His nature, we cooperate with God in overcoming Satan's temptations. God works, and man works, that man may be one with Christ as Christ is one with God. Then we sit together with Christ in heavenly places. The mind rests with peace and assurance in Jesus" (The Review and Herald, April*

24, 1900). {7BC 943.2}

“Heaven is filled with blessings for those who through the truth are sanctified, body, soul, and spirit. As individuals we have before us a great and grand work, THAT OF OVERCOMING EVERY EVIL PROPENSITY. This experience of perfect conformity to the Word of God Christ has characterized as eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of God.” {Ms106-1905.3}

“Christ is the ladder that Jacob saw, the base resting on the earth, and the topmost round reaching to the gate of heaven, to the very threshold of glory. If that ladder had failed by a single step of reaching the earth, we should have been lost. But Christ reaches us where we are. HE TOOK OUR NATURE AND OVERCAME, THAT WE THROUGH TAKING HIS NATURE MIGHT OVERCOME. Made “in the likeness of sinful flesh” (Romans 8:3), He lived a sinless life. Now by His Divinity He lays hold upon the throne of heaven, while by His humanity He reaches us. He bids us by faith in Him attain to the glory of the character of God. Therefore are we to be perfect, even as our “Father which is in heaven is perfect.”” {DA p. 311}

“The prince of this world cometh,” said Jesus, “and hath nothing in Me.” John 14:30. There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan’s sophistry. He did not consent to sin. NOT EVEN BY A THOUGHT DID HE YIELD TO TEMPTATION. SO IT MAY BE WITH US. Christ’s humanity was united with Divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the Divine nature. SO LONG AS WE ARE UNITED TO HIM BY FAITH, SIN HAS NO MORE DOMINION OVER US. God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold upon the Divinity of Christ, that we may attain to perfection of character.” {DA p. 123}

“NONE NEED FAIL OF ATTAINING, IN HIS SPHERE, TO PERFECTION OF CHRISTIAN PERFECTION OF CHARACTER. By the sacrifice of Christ, provision has been made for the believer to receive all things that pertain to life and godliness. God calls upon us to reach the standard of perfection and places before us the example of Christ’s character. In His humanity, perfected by a life of constant resistance of evil, THE SAVIOUR SHOWED THAT THOUGHT CO-OPERATION WITH DIVINITY, HUMAN BEINGS MAY IN THIS LIFE ATTAIN TO PERFECTION OF CHARACTER. THIS IS GOD’S ASSURANCE TO US THAT WE, TOO, MAY OBTAIN COMPLETE VICTORY.” {AA p. 531}

“Those only who through faith in Christ obey all of God’s commandments WILL REACH THE CONDITION OF SINLESSNESS IN WHICH ADAM LIVED BEFORE HIS TRANSGRESSION” {MS p. 122 1901}

“The great teacher came into our world, not only to atone for sin but to be a teacher both by precept and example. He came to show man how to keep the law in humanity, so that man might have no excuse for following his own defective judgment. We see Christ’s obedience. His life was without sin. His lifelong obedience is a reproach to disobedient humanity. THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST IS NOT TO BE PUT ASIDE AS ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT FROM THE OBEDIENCE

HE REQUIRES OF US INDIVIDUALLY. CHRIST HAS SHOWN US THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR ALL HUMANITY TO OBEY THE LAWS OF GOD....” {3SM 135.2}

“Christ overcame the temptations of Satan as a man. EVERY MAN MAY OVERCOME AS CHRIST OVERCAME. He humbled Himself for us. He was tempted in all points like as we are. He redeemed Adam’s disgraceful failure and fall, and was conqueror, thus testifying to all the unfallen worlds and to fallen humanity THAT MAN COULD KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD THROUGH THE DIVINE POWER GRANTED TO HIM OF HEAVEN. Jesus the Son of God humbled Himself for us, endured temptation for us, overcame in our behalf to show us how we may overcome. He has thus bound up His interests with humanity by the closest ties, and has given the positive assurance that we shall not be tempted above that we are able, for with the temptation He will make a way of escape.” {3SM 136.3}

“Brethren and sisters, we need the reformation that all who are redeemed must have, through the cleansing of mind and heart FROM EVERY TAIN OF SIN. In the lives of those who are ransomed by the blood of Christ, self-sacrifice will constantly appear. Goodness and righteousness will be seen. The quiet, inward experience will make the life full of godliness, faith, meekness, patience. This is to be our daily experience. WE ARE TO FORM CHARACTERS FREE FROM SIN—characters made righteous in and by the grace of Christ.... Our hearts are to be cleansed from all impurity in the blood shed to take away sin.” {CH 633.3 }

Christ Refuted Satan’s Boast That No One Could Live a Spotless Life—“Christ came to suffer in man’s behalf, for Satan had made the boast that no one could withstand his devising and in this world live a spotless life. Clothed with human nature, the Redeemer subjected Himself to all the temptations with which human beings are beset, and He overcame on every point. The record of His life is given to the world, that no one need be in doubt as to the power of the grace of God. To every soul who strives for perfection of Christian character, this world becomes a battlefield on which is fought the controversy between good and evil. And everyone who trusts in Christ will gain the victory.” {11MR 213.2}

### **Does this new birth cancel the inclinations of the natural heart?**

No! but “It gives to man the mastery of himself, bringing every impulse and passion of the lower nature under the control of the higher powers of the mind. It makes its possessor a son of God and an heir of heaven. It brings him into communion with the mind of the Infinite, and opens to him the rich treasures of the universe.” COL 114.2

“It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God’s law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God. But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as

*your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned. SC 62.2*

*More than this, Christ changes the heart. He abides in your heart by faith. You are to maintain this connection with Christ by faith and the continual surrender of your will to Him; and so long as you do this, He will work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. So you may say, "The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20. So Jesus said to His disciples, "It is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." Matthew 10:20. Then with Christ working in you, you will manifest the same spirit and do the same good works—works of righteousness, obedience." SC 62.3*

*"As children of the first Adam, WE PARTAKE OF THE DYING NATURE OF ADAM. But through the imparted life of Christ, man has been given opportunity to win back again the lost gift of life, and to stand in his original position before God, a partaker of the divine nature. "As many as received him," writes John, "to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." "I am come," said Christ, "that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." {ST June 17, 1897, par. 15}*

Philippians 2:5 (KJV) "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

1 Jo 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Tit 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

2Co 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Jud 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

1Pe 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

2Pe 1:3-4 According as his Divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine nature, having escaped the corruption that

is in the world through lust.

**Further notes on Christ's human nature by SDA pioneers:**

*"Now the flesh of Jesus Christ was our flesh, and IN IT WAS ALL THAT IS IN OUR FLESH, - all the tendencies to sin that are in our flesh were in his flesh, drawing upon him to get him to consent to sin. Suppose he had consented to sin with his mind; what then? Then his mind would have been corrupted, and then he would have become of like passions with us. But in that case he himself would have been a sinner; he would have been entirely enslaved, and we all would have been entirely enslaved, and we all would have been lost - everything would have perished." (GCB February 25, 1895, p. 328.5) (A.T. Jones)*

*"He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh, NOT IN THE LIKENESS OF SINFUL MIND. DO NOT DRAG HIS MIND INTO IT. HIS FLESH WAS OUR FLESH, BUT THE MIND WAS 'THE MIND OF CHRIST JESUS.'... But what kind of mind is ours? O, it is corrupted with sin also." (A.T. Jones, GCB, February 25, 1895, p. 327)*

*"A little thought will be sufficient to show anybody that if Christ took upon Himself the likeness of man, in order that He might redeem man, IT MUST HAVE BEEN SINFUL MAN THAT HE WAS MADE LIKE, FOR IT IS SINFUL MAN THAT HE CAME TO REDEEM"(Christ and His Righteousness, p. 26 by E.J Waggoner)*

*"But to be the Redeemer He must be not only able, He must be a blood-relative. And He must also be not only near of kin, but the nearest of kin; and the nearest of kin by blood-relationship. Therefore, "as the children" of man—as the children of the one who lost our inheritance — "are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same"—took part of flesh and blood in very substance like ours, and so became our nearest of kin. And therefore it is written that He and we "are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call us brethren." (Consecrated Way to Christian Perfection, p. 25 by A.T. Jones)*

*"Now as to Christ not having "like passions" with us: In the Scriptures all the way through He is like us, and with us according to the flesh. He is the seed of David according to the flesh. He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh. Don't go too far. He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh; not in the likeness of sinful mind. Do not drag His mind into it. His flesh was our flesh; but the mind was "the mind of Christ Jesus" (1895 GC Sermon #17 p. 327)*