

**Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics**

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

The Heights Church April 7, 2019

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Could Jesus Have Sinned?

- The Bible does not directly answer this question, but logically the answer must be NO!
- Impeccable has been traditionally defined as Jesus never sinned and was not capable of sinning.
- Most theologians have tried to maintain that Jesus was genuinely tempted and yet genuinely impeccable. How can both these be true?
- The classic argument for impeccability is presented as follows:

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Could Jesus Have Sinned?

1. If Jesus' human nature existed by itself independent of his divine nature then it would have been a human nature like Adam and Eve had which was initially free of sin but able to sin or not sin (Free Will).
2. Jesus' human nature never existed apart from his divine nature. From the point of his conception he existed as fully God and fully man united in one person.
3. If Jesus had sinned in his human nature it would have involved the person of Christ.

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4. So if Jesus had yielded to temptation and sinned in his human nature, then the second person of the Trinity would have sinned. Therefore, God would have sinned and ceased to be God. However, it is impossible for God to sin because of the infinite holiness of God's nature.
5. Therefore, it was not possible for Jesus to sin because the union of the divine and human nature prevented it.

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- How can Jesus' temptations be genuine if he was impeccable? The answer must be that Jesus could not sin because he was God but Jesus did not sin because he was born without original sin and the human nature in Jesus was indwelt by the Holy Spirit.*

**The Man Christ Jesus* by Bruce A. Ware , Chapter 5

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Could Jesus Have Sinned?

- Neither the human nature nor the divine nature can violate the integrity of the other nature.
- However, the union of the human and divine nature must impose some limitations on the expression of the other nature.
- The usual Evangelical understanding is that Jesus could not sin because he was God and he did not sin because he was God.
- Logically it does not follow that the reason something cannot happen is the same as the reason it did not happen.

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- Therefore, Jesus did not sin because he made full use of all the resources he was given in his human nature.
 1. He was not affected by the Fall, namely not a direct descendent of Adam (born without inherited sin or a fallen mind).
 2. He loved and meditated on God's word.
 3. He prayed regularly to the Father and trusted in the Father's (God's) will.
 4. He was empowered by the Holy Spirit.

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But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”” (Matthew 4:4)

“Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”
(Matthew 4:7)

Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”” (Matthew 4:10)

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And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, (Matthew 14:23)

"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." (Luke 22:42)

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. (Acts 10:38)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Could Jesus Have Sinned?

- If Jesus had only a human nature he would have been like Adam and hence been able to sin and able to not sin. BUT the person of Jesus has a fully divine nature and a fully human nature. Therefore, the person of Jesus cannot sin because the divine nature cannot sin. Nevertheless, Jesus resisted temptation by the power of the Holy Spirit. As seen before we fail to understand how powerful the Holy Spirit is in a sinless person.

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Why did the Messiah have to be fully human?

- Jesus had to be a man in order to represent the elect and perfectly obey God for them. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:18 – 19)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Why did the Messiah have to be fully human?

- **Jesus had to be a man to be the elect's substitute sacrifice.** For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:16 – 17)
- **Jesus had to be a man to mediate between the elect and God.** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (1 Timothy 2:5)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Why did the Messiah have to be fully human?

- Jesus had to be a man to fulfill God's original plan for humans to rule over creation.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Matthew 28:18)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Why did the Messiah have to be fully human?

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:26 – 28)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Why did the Messiah have to be fully human?

You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet. "Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. (Hebrews 2:7 - 10)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Why did the Messiah have to be fully human?

- Jesus had to be a man to be the elect's example in life.

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. (1 Peter 2:21)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Why did the Messiah have to be fully human?

- Jesus had to be a man to be the pattern for our redeemed bodies.

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body... Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:42 – 44, 49)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: Why did the Messiah have to be fully human?

- Jesus had to be a man to sympathize as our High Priest. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

(Hebrews 2:17 – 18)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: He will be a man forever.

- Jesus did not give up his human nature and body following his death and resurrection.
- He appeared to the disciples as a man. On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. (John 20:19 – 20)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: He will be a man forever.

- **He promised to drink wine with the disciples in the Father's kingdom.** I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. (Matthew 26:29)
- **He had flesh and bones.** See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." (Luke 24:39)
- **He ate food.** "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them. (Luke 24: 41 – 43)

Jesus the God-man – His Humanity: He will be a man forever.

- **He will come again as a man.** and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."
(Acts 1:11)
- **He invites the elect to a great marriage supper in heaven.** And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." (Revelation 19:9)

Jesus the God-man – Appearances after the Resurrection

- 1. To the women after they had been to the empty tomb (Mathew 28:1-10)**
- 2. Mary Magdalene (John 20:10 – 18)**
- 3. Peter (Luke 24:34)**
- 4. Cleopas and another disciple on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:34)**
- 5. Ten Disciples (John 20:19 – 23)**
- 6. Eleven Disciples (John 20:26 – 28)**
- 7. Seven Disciples (John 21:1 -14)**
- 8. Apostles on a mountain in Galilee (Matthew 28:16 – 20)**
- 9. James (1 Corinthians 15:7)**
- 10. Apostles on the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:4 -7)**
- 11. Stephen (Acts 7:56)**
- 12. 500 Believers (1 Corinthians 15:6)**
- 13. Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1 – 6)**