

The Sinless Jesus

by Harry L. Lewis

It is not a good idea to use very many universal statements, however, this one will not meet with much opposition among believers — Jesus is the **sinless** Son of God. There is so very much Biblical proof of this that those who even pay lip service to the Book believe it. **John 8:46** shows that Jesus, Himself claimed as much. That passage quotes Jesus saying “Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?” **Romans 8:3** shows the apostle Paul understood that Jesus condemned sin in the flesh, for we read “For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh.” Again in **2 Corinthians 5:21** we find the following “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” Additional information on this may be gained from **Hebrews 9:28; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5**; etc. That the New Testament claims for Jesus Christ a sinless life cannot be successfully refuted. Those who do not believe this just do not believe the Book of God.

The problem comes when we begin to study to see just why Jesus was sinless. Several answers have been given to this question. Some say Jesus was the only **man** who was born sinless. Since Adam and Eve were created, and not born, they began life on a par with Jesus. Many teach that all men born since Adam sinned have been born with that “sin nature” attached to their soul. The statement then is not “All have sinned” (**Romans 3:23**), but “All are **born sinners except Jesus.**” Sometimes this doctrine is stated in the following terms “All that is human have it” (i.e. sin nature — **HLL**) Friends, this is not the way Jesus was a sinless man.

Some lately have taken the position that Jesus was sinless because He is God, and God cannot sin. Jesus was sinless then because He **could not** be otherwise. While it is true that God, in His unlimited state, cannot sin (**James 1:13**) for, in this state God cannot be tempted to sin. The fact is, however, Jesus left that state, and became a man for this very purpose — to be tempted and to show men that sin is not inevitable (**Romans 8:5**). Men do not have to sin! (**Philippians 2:6-8; Heb. 2:9-11, 14-18; 4:15**).

The question remains as to just how Jesus showed us to overcome temptation. In **Matthew 4:1-10** we have an illustration of the means to overcome sin provided by God. It is by means of the revealed will of God, the Bible, the Scriptures. Notice that each time Jesus was tempted by Satan He used the scriptures to overcome the temptation. In **verses 4, 7, and 10** we find Jesus saying “It is written...” Remember **Rom. 10:17**?

Surely we can see from this that Jesus was sinless simply because He did not sin (**1 John 3:4**). He refused to go beyond what was written (**1 Corinthians 4:6**). He was willing to use scripture for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness (**2 Timothy 3:16, 17**). He was willing to walk in the light (**1 John 1:7-2:2; Psalm 119:105**; He would **not** “run ahead too far” (NEB), “goeth onward” (ASV), “transgresseth” (KJV), “go beyond the limits” (TCNT) (**2 John 9-11**).

Jesus truly did walk by faith (**2 Corinthians 5:7**). That is why He is sinless! That is why He is our example, **1 Peter 2:21-24**.

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