

- (3) With respect to the twin questions whether Christ had a sinful nature and whether He actually sinned, the following should be mentioned:
- (a) Adam and Eve before the Fall were fully human, yet their natures were not sinful.
  - (b) Karl Barth felt that Christ had to have a sinful nature if He was going to be able to identify with mankind ( i.e., mankind as it is presently constituted, in all of its fallenness and sin), if He was genuinely to be one with fallen humanity, and if He was to be both the reprobate man for all men and the elect man for all men. Nevertheless Barth insisted that Christ never committed sin.
  - (c) When the angel told Mary that she was going to bear Jesus, he said, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy thing begotten shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)
  - (d) In Hebrews 7:26 Christ is characterized as "holy, innocent, undefiled".
  - (e) In John 8:46 Jesus asked His hearers, "Which of you convicts me of sin?" And none of them was able to point to even one transgression of the Law of God, or one instance of lack of conformity to it.
  - (f) In Matthew 7:17-18 Jesus said, "Every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit." In applying this agricultural and moral principle to Jesus, we can say that it would have been impossible for Him to have a sinful nature and yet live a holy life. Jesus' actions were holy because His character was holy. We cannot separate His character from His actions and say that He had a sinful nature but did not commit sin.

b. Development of an answer

- (1) Christ's temptability or intemptability (His ability or inability to be tempted)
- (a) Toward an understanding of temptation in general

[1] Scriptures relevant to temptation in general

Genesis 2:8-9; 2:16-17; 3:22 -- "And the Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. and out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.' "

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, 'indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'' And the woman said to the serpent, 'From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has