

COULD JESUS SIN?

By Keith Greer

Over the years I've read about certain issues that are dividing brethren in other parts of the country. In some of the papers and bulletins I receive, some brethren were expressing "strange things" concerning the humanity of Christ.

Listen to what some brethren were writing: **"Will we have to figure out a way to make God the Father susceptible to sin and error in order for Him to be our example "in life"? We must understand that the Lord did not leave heaven and come to earth in order to find out whether or not He could live a sinless life. His earthly life and conduct were simply a demonstration for our benefit.**" { Gospel Truths, August 1995, Tim Haile}

Say what? My brother has missed it! Did our Lord just come down to this earth and put on a "performance and act" for the sheer benefit of impressing His creation?

If this be so, explain the following passages of scriptures please...

"Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread But He answered and said, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" {Matthew 4:3,4} One brother wrote a book , that I have in my library, that Jesus wasn't even hungry. Why? Hunger was not an issue to the Lord! Could He have fulfilled the request of Satan? Why did He answer him with scripture? In all three temptations of Satan, they were overcome with scripture. Do you believe this was just a performance and Jesus could not have fallen?

"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. "{Hebrews 4:15}

When we sin, do we just put on a performance for the benefit of God? If Jesus could not sin, then it was not a temptation! One preacher said it this way, "It was temptation but it was impossible for Him to sin". How then is He my example for overcoming sin? Did Jesus have an edge? Some brethren believe so!

Jesus was both God and man. The scriptures are quite clear on these points. 100% God and 100% man. Ridicule it if you like but that is what the scriptures teach. Do I understand how Christ kept the two separated? Do I need to understand?

While Jesus was in the flesh did he have other characteristics of man? Did he get thirsty? Read John 4:7-9. Did he get hungry? Read Luke 24:42, 43. Was he ever tired? Read Matthew 8:20. Did he grieve over those who were in pain and suffering? Read Matthew 14:14 and John 11:35.

"In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus was not tempted to find out whether or not He could resist the devil. He was tempted to give us a perfect example of how to resist sin and

temptation.... The simple fact that Jesus was 'led up by the Spirit ... to be tempted by the devil" tells us that there was no possibility that Christ could have sinned and failed." {Gospel Truths, August 1995, Tim Haile}

My dear brother has made a serious mistake in his thinking! If Jesus could not have sinned, then it is not a temptation! This being true, this is no example for me, because when I am tempted I can, and many times, do sin. Why can't brethren just accept what the Bible says? Read Hebrews 4:15 again! My Lord overcame temptation to show I could resist too! ***