

# COULD JESUS SIN

## THE HUMAN TEMPTATION OF JESUS

*"God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man"*

~ James 1:13

### 1. Why this...

- a. It concerns the divine incarnation (our last lesson)
- b. The question is old, and growing more common as YoutubeChurch grows
- c. If answered wrong, could have serious consequences (heresy)

### 2. Framing the Issue

- a. Jesus was God (necessary for the question to be relevant) – 1 Tim 3:16, Col 2:9
- b. Jesus was a man (and we know what that is like, we can sin)
- c. Jesus was tempted – Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-14
- d. Jesus was sinless, proving he was the Son of God (b/c God is without sin)
- e. Not a question of His sinlessness – Heb 4:15, 7:26, Luke 23:41, 23:47, John 8:46, 2Cor 5:21, 1Peter 2:22, 3:18, 1John 2:1, 3:5; Jam 4:17, 1 John 5:17
- f. Could Jesus have sinned? Was it possible? Did he have the ability?
  - i. If not, was he truly tempted? Was he truly a man?
  - ii. If so, was he truly a saviour? Was he truly divine?
- g. *Seminary word of the day:* peccability ~ capable of sin; impeccability ~incapable of sin

### 3. Temptation

- a. Temptation ~*Webster*. 1) To solicit the passions (James 5:17, Acts 14:15); entice to evil proceeding from the prospect of pleasure or advantage. 2) To try, put to the test.
  - i. Temptation is not the sin itself, it is the provocation to perform the sin.
- b. Sin ~*def.* Anything contrary to God, his will, virtues, instructions, laws, words 1Jo 3:4
- c. God cannot be tempted with evil - Jam 1:13, not of like passions –Acts 14:15, Jam 5:17
- d. Man can be tempted with evil – Jam 1:14-15; Sin produced by man's lust for evil.
  - i. Sin is more than the act, it is the lust and desire for the act – Jam 1:14, Mt 5:22

### 4. Why Jesus Could Not Sin

- a. 1. Jesus did no sin → Heb 4:15; had no sin (nature) 1Jo 3:5; never knew sin – 2Cor 5:21
  - i. He was truly a man like us, but being a man does not require sin (nature or act).
  - ii. He knew what was good, and he desired and did it - Jam 4:17, 1 John 5:17
- b. Jesus had no lust for evil, but experienced human passions – hunger, need, weakness.
  - i. It's impossible for God to eat, but Jesus ate. (sin is not an attribute of humanity)
- c. 2. He was also God. Unlike us, he was not only man. Titus 1:2, Heb 6:8, Heb 13:8
  - i. His deity was inhuman, God cannot sin. He did not exchange deity for humanity.
  - ii. Moral integrity, holiness, righteousness cannot be separated from his person.
- d. 3. True temptation does not require the person be capable of falling into it.
  - i. It is possible to attempt the impossible – there are degrees of strength and will.
  - ii. Ex. food to the full, money to the rich, power to the strong.
- e. If Jesus could sin then, he could sin now. (He is still human!), and it was possible God's plan would fail.
- f. Jesus was impeccable, he could not sin – because he was God the Son.
- g. *What about you?* You are in Christ, made to bear his image – 1Cor 15:49, Rom 8:29