

Nature of Christ

Lloyd Knecht

8. *We accept the admonitions of Ellen White to, “avoid every question in relation to the humanity of Christ which is liable to be misunderstood” and that “the incarnation of Christ has ever been, and will ever remain a mystery.” (5BC 1129) Here every human being must tread softly. It is important to treat fairly everything that Bible and Ellen White have to say on this topic., realizing that neither of these sources necessarily gives the human nature of Christ the same prominence as did the post-Minneapolis Jones and Waggoner. The interpretation that Jones and Waggoner gave the Biblical materials on the human nature of Christ is not necessarily supported by Ellen White’s full understanding of Christ’s human nature.*

Following the meetings some of our brethren had with Barnhouse and Walter Martin during the 1950s there was an overwhelming push at the highest levels of the church to change the historical teaching of the church, that Christ took upon His sinless nature our fallen nature. Over the course of decades the new view that Christ took the unfallen nature of Adam largely prevailed. However, in part, because of Ellen Whites extensive statements that He took our “fallen sinful nature” most pastors have adopted the view that he took our fallen human nature, but only our “innocent infirmities”, not having any temptations from within to sin.

However, recent research has uncovered statements that clearly state otherwise. Here are a few of these statements from a paper by RJ Gravell, *The Mind Versus Sinful Flesh*:

all our temptation	<i>Review and Herald</i> , March 9, 1905
--------------------	--

all our afflictions	<i>Manuscript Release</i> , Number 1405
---------------------	---

all our griefs	<i>That I May know Him</i> , p. 53
----------------	------------------------------------

all the infirmities	<i>Bible Echo</i> , May 21, 1900
----------------------------	----------------------------------

all points except sin	<i>Reviews and Herald</i> , January 7, 1904
-----------------------	---

In 1895, the year she wrote the Baker letter, Ellen White invited W.W. Prescott to Australia to be the main speaker for their November camp meeting. She reported, “In the evening, Professor Prescott gave a most valuable lesson, precious as gold. The tent was full, and many stood outside. All seemed to be fascinated with the Word, as he presented the truth in lines so new to those not of our faith. Truth was separated from error, and made, by the divine Spirit to shine like precious jewels...The Lord is working in power through His servants who are proclaiming the truth, and He has given Brother Prescott a special message for the people...The Lord has visited Brother Prescott in a most remarkable manner. We are sure that the Lord has endowed him with his Holy Spirit, and the truth is flowing forth from him in rich currents.” (*Review and Herald*, January 7, 1896)

Speaking on Hebrews 2: 14-18 he insisted, “The scripture states very plainly that Jesus Christ had exactly the same flesh that we bear; flesh of sin; flesh in which we sin; flesh, however, in which He did not sin; but He bore our sins in that flesh of sin. No matter how you may have looked at it in the past, look at it now as it is in the word; and the more you look at it in that way, the more reason you will have to thank God that it is so...” (Armandale Campmeeting Talk, W.W. Prescott, October 31, 1895)

Further study: www.gospelstudygroup.org - March 2012, God Wrapped in Flesh by RJ Gravell; November, 2008: Jesus Identity and Victory in the Gospel by Fred Bischoff; Nature of Sin; Human Nature of Christ by Richard Davidson; Two Adamic Resonances by Mark Duncan; Holy Flesh Movement by Jerry Finneman; Thought Paper Concerning the Baker Letter by Jerry Finneman; Charms of Christ by Peter Van Bemmelen; In Christ, Salvation, and the Eschaton: Essays in Honor of Hans K. LaRondelle 231-240 Old Testament Department, Seminary at Berrien Springs, MI ; AT Jones Editorial RH 4-18-1899 from Fred Bischoff; Does All Really Mean All by RJ Gravell; Ellen White Statements on the Humanity of Christ from Lloyd Knecht