

# “TO SIN OR NOT TO SIN?” – THE IMPECCABILITY OF CHRIST

INTRO: My experience in high school – SS class in SLO – small room – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor – man teacher – my first conscious awareness that I could never be a Christian – I John 2:3-6. – Wasn't Jesus perfect? Wasn't He sinless? An impossible mission, so I didn't pursue seeking – Don't remember any teaching on mercy and grace and the new birth. I was slain and without hope, without God in the world.

## I. Impeccability defined

- A. The sinlessness of Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:21; I John 3:5; I Peter 3:18; Hebrews 4:15; John 8:46; [Who is the godliest person you've known?] [What argument does the RC Church give to prove Jesus was born without original sin? Immaculate Conception – believed from Middle Ages but pronounced dogma in 1854]
- A. Peccability of Christ – Hebrews 2:17, 18; and 4:15 – the possibility of sinning when tempted. [Jesus was tempted in 'all points' like as we are, yet w/o sin]
- B. Impeccability of Christ – James 1:13, 14; Hebrews 7:26-28; John 3:13; Hebrews 13:8; John 4:34; – the impossibility of sinning, when tempted. [We'll look at these and other passages later]

## II. Impeccability challenged

### A. Atheists and anti-Christian religious

1. Debate.org's 50-50 survey
2. List of arguments [How would you answer these?]
  - a. Pig killer – Matt. 8:32
  - b. Admitted he wasn't good – Mark 10:18
  - c. Anger is a sin – John 2:15
  - d. Broke the Sabbath – John 5:18
  - e. Said he would return before his hearers died – Matt. 24:34 – He lied
  - f. Destruction of property – Matt. 21:18-21
  - g. Didn't care about his parents – Luke 2:49
  - h. Advocated hating his family – Luke 14:25, 26
  - i. Was baptized for remission of sins – Matt. 3:13-15
  - j. He must have sinned – he died – Mark 15:37
  - k. Others?

- B. Professing Christian quote on Hebrews 2:17 and Hebrews 4:15 [We'll look at these verses later]

C. Radio preacher on KCBC saying that Jesus had bad thoughts, just like we do.

### III. Impeccability proven

A. Let's answer the radio heretic's statement: Mark 7:17-23

[so we don't sin until these evil thoughts turn into actions?] [see Matt. 5:27, 28] [If the thoughts themselves are sinful, then Jesus could have no sinful thoughts] [Proverbs 24:9 "The thought of foolishness is sin."]

B. John 8:46 - Jesus was conscious of His own sinlessness. He knew He came from heaven. He knew He would only do His Father's will. He knew that Satan had nothing in Him. John 14:30

[In John 14:30 Christ said, "Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me."

The last clause, "and hath nothing in me" ("kai en emoì ouk échei oudén" literally, "and in me he has nothing.") clearly shows that our Lord was aware of his own impeccability. There was nothing in Jesus that the devil could use to thwart Him. - D.T. Stark]

C. James 1:13, 14 - [Safe to add 'evil desires'] [John Gill - "by 'lust' is meant the principle of corrupt nature, which has its residence in the heart of man; is natural and hereditary to him, and therefore is called his own; he is conceived and shaped in it; he brings it into the world with him, and it continues in him, and is called his own heart's lust, Romans 1:24."] [Jesus had no evil desires or lusts. We can't imagine what that would be like, but it is why we should hunger and thirst after it.]

D. Hebrews 7:26-28 - ["holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners . . . perfected forever" - forever past, forever future]

E. John 3:13 with Hebrews 13:8 - If God never sinned in eternity past, it would be true that God in Christ could never sin on earth or in heaven.

F. John 4:34 - Christ is one Person - two natures in one Person. He is not divided in any way (part unable to sin and part able to sin).

G. Hebrews 2:17 and 4:15 - Tempted, yes, but not as we are tempted. [His temptations were external, never from an inner sinful propensity. As fully human, what were some of the ways He was tempted? Matt. 4 - hunger, going ahead and outside of God's plan, tempting God, false glory/pride; - John 4 - weariness and thirst; Matt. 26:36-46 and Luke 22:39-44 - fearing His Father's judgment, the sufferings of the cross and being forsaken of the Father;]

#### IV. Impeccability applied

- A. Note how great a distance between our condition and Christ's. [Isaiah 53:3 - God's condescending love, humility, grief over the presence of sin, pain - we should be awe-struck and prostrate before Him as Peter who said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." And Paul in Romans 7:24, "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"]
- B. Note how great a reason to hunger and thirst after righteousness. [This will be our condition in heaven - it should be our dream and desire here. Joseph Caryl said: Perfect holiness is the aim of the saints on earth, and it is the reward of saints in heaven.]
- C. Note how great a change will accompany our next life. [Heaven begins where sin ends: Thomas Adams. I Cor. 15:43 "It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power."  
Richard Baxter: "This life is not intended to be the place of our perfection, but the preparation for it."] [We will share in Christ's impeccable nature!]
- D. Note how great a God who works this greatest of miracles. [Don't worship a small God, a limited God, a measured God. We worship the One who "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think . . ." Ephesians 3:20; and Isaiah 55: 8, 9 - "For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts higher than your thoughts."]

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