

THE INCARNATION

E.G. White 1888 Materials, Vol.1, pge. 332.

The “Wonderful Mystery”

“Christ could have done nothing during His earthly ministry in saving fallen man if the divine had not been blended with the human. The limited capacity of man cannot define this wonderful mystery – the blending of the two natures, the divine and the human. It can never be explained. Man must wonder and be silent. And yet man is privileged to be a partaker of the divine nature, and in this way he can to some degree enter into the mystery. This wonderful exhibition of God’s love was made at the cross of Calvary. Divinity took the nature of humanity, and for what purpose? – That through the righteousness of Christ humanity might partake of the divine nature.

*The union of divinity and humanity, which was possible with Christ, is incomprehensible to human minds....Christ is coming in power and great glory, but His coming is not such a mystery as the things to take place before that event. Man must be a partaker of the divine nature in order to stand in this evil time, when the mysteries of satanic agencies are at work. Only by the divine power united with the human can souls endure through these times of trial. Says Christ, **“Without me ye can do nothing.”** Then there must be far less of self and more of Christ.*

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless **not my will**, but thine, be done.

Sinful nature does not make us sinners.

We are born sinners and this is why we are admonished **never to make Christ altogether human.**

Outside of Christ we have nothing but sin, condemnation and death.

Romans 3:23 For **all** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

All have (past tense) sinned, not **will** (future tense) and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:19.....that **all** the world may become **guilty** before God.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, **not one**:

Romans 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

Romans 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

Ellen White, 13MR 18.2

*“ When Jesus left heaven, and there left His **power and glory**, Satan exulted. He thought that the Son of God was placed in his power. The temptation took so easily with the holy pair in Eden that he hoped, with his satanic cunning and power, to overthrow even the Son of God, and thereby save his life and kingdom. If he could tempt Jesus to depart from the will of God, as he had done in his temptation with Adam and Eve, then his object would be gained. {Con 54.1}Bro. Baker, avoid every question in relation to the humanity of Christ which is liable to be misunderstood. Truth lies close to the track of presumption. In treating upon the humanity of Christ, you need to guard strenuously every assertion, lest your words be taken to mean more than they imply, and thus you lose or dim the clear perceptions of His humanity as combined with divinity. His birth was a miracle of God; for, said the angel, "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the son of the Highest; and the Lord shall give unto him the throne of his Father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing that I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (13MR 18.2)*

*These words are not addressed to any human being, except to the Son of the Infinite God. Never, in any way, leave the slightest impression upon human minds that a taint of, or inclination to corruption rested upon Christ, or that He in any way yielded to corruption. He was tempted in all points like as man is tempted, yet He is called that holy thing. It is a mystery that is left unexplained to mortals that Christ could be tempted in all points like as we are, and yet be without sin. **The incarnation of Christ has ever been, and will ever remain a mystery. That which is revealed, is for us and for our children, but let every human being be warned from the ground of making Christ altogether human, such an one as ourselves: for it cannot be.** The exact time when humanity blended with divinity, it is not necessary for us to know. We are to keep our feet on the rock, Christ Jesus, as God revealed in humanity. (13MR 19.1)*

I perceive that there is danger in approaching subjects which dwell on the humanity of the Son of the infinite God. He did humble Himself when He saw He was in fashion as a man, that He might understand the force of all temptations wherewith man is beset.”

E.J.Waggoner – “ The Lord wants all to understand that the **new birth puts men in the same position that Christ occupied on this earth**, and He will demonstrate this before the world. The life of Jesus is to be perfectly reproduced in His followers, not for a day merely, but for all time and for eternity. There is danger in delaying to yield to this working of the Lord by His Spirit,

– **Everlasting Covenant.**

E.J.Waggoner, The Everlasting Covenant.

*"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God; and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ." Think how much is comprehended that we are heirs of God because we are His children. Now that which a child first of all inherits from its father, the father himself his features his characteristics. The inheritance of the property, if there by any, is a secondary matter. Even so we, being in Christ children of God, are heirs of Himself, partakers of the Divine nature. Just as by our **natural birth we inherit sin** and weakness, so by the **new birth we inherit righteousness** and strength. The reception of the Spirit of God, the regenerating power, makes us the direct, immediate offspring of God. -*

Ellen White, Great Controversy, p 622,623.

*"Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself: "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me." **John 14:30**. Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. **This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble.***

It is in this life that we are to separate sin from us, through faith in the atoning blood of Christ. Our precious Saviour invites us to join ourselves to Him, to unite our weakness to His strength, our ignorance to His wisdom, our unworthiness to His merits." (end quote Ellen White)

Satan has kept us very confused on the sin problem. The **life** that we **inherit** from Adam is a **life** that has **already sinned**, is guilty and **condemned**.

We are not **personally** guilty.

The sin problem has to be dealt with to understand the truths God has given us about the incarnation.

M.R. No.1002 – The Baker Letter.

*"These dear children received from Adam an inheritance of disobedience, of **guilt** and death. The Lord has given the world Jesus Christ, and His work was to restore to the world the moral image of God in man, and to reshape the character."*

Child Guidance, p 475

*"The **inheritance** of children is that of **sin**. Sin has separated them from God. Jesus gave His life that He might unite the broken links to God. As related to the **first Adam**, men receive from him nothing but **guilt** and the sentence of death. But Christ steps in and passes over the ground where Adam fell, enduring every test on man's behalf....."*

Faith & Works , p 88,89.

*"We have reason for ceaseless gratitude to God and Christ, by His perfect obedience, has won back the heaven that Adam lost through disobedience. Adam sinned, and the children of Adam share his **guilt** and its consequences; but Jesus bore the **guilt of Adam**, and all the children of Adam that will flee to Christ, the **second Adam**, may escape the penalty of transgression. Jesus regained heaven for man by bearing the test that Adam failed to endure; for He obeyed the law perfectly, and all who have a right conception of the plan of redemption will see that they cannot be saved while in transgression of God's holy precepts."*

E.J.Waggoner - Studies in Romans

*"So Adam died, and because of that, **every man born into the world is a sinner**, and the **sentence of death** is passed upon him. Judgment has passed upon **all men** to condemnation, and there is not a man in this world but has been under the condemnation of death. The only way that he can get free from that condemnation and that death is through Christ, who died for him and who, in His own body, bore our sins upon the cross. He bore the penalty of the law, and suffered the condemnation of the law for us, not for Himself, for He was sinless."*

The Mind of Christ - R.C. Porter (Pioneer Library)

"Christ, having but a few weak disciples, was condemned to death. He died the object of the wrath of the Jewish priests, and of the contempt of the nation and abandoned and denied by his own disciples.

*"'They are about to take me, and to crucify me,' said he. 'I shall be abandoned of all the world. My chief disciple will deny me at the commencement of my punishment. I shall be left to the wicked. But then, divine justice being satisfied, **original sin** being expiated by my suffering, the bond of man to God will be renewed, and my death will be the life of my disciples. Then they will be more strong without me than with me; for they will see me rise again. I shall ascend to the skies; and I shall send to them, from heaven, a Spirit who will instruct them' . . ." (end quote RC Porter)*

The truth is, **God reversed** that **original sin** in His Son, there was an original sin.

The **error of original sin** is, the **Catholic church** claims to reverse **original sin**.

When Adam sinned, we (the human race) sinned in him. We were implicated because we were created when Adam was created. We were not **personally** guilty.

God would not condemn the human race when Adam sinned if we were not implicated in some way.

The Bible teaches that the human race is a multiplication of Adam's life.

The fundamental truth of the Scripture is:

1. God created all men in one man – i.e., In Adam (**Acts 17;26.**)
2. Satan ruined all men in one man - i.e., In Adam **Romans 5:12, 18**)
3. God redeemed all men in One Man - i.e., The second Adam (**Titus 2:11; 1John 2:2.**)

The word Adam in Hebrew has a collective significance and means mankind.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (**lives** in Hebrew); and man became a living soul.

Genesis 25:23 And the LORD said unto her, **Two nations** [are] in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and [the one] people shall be stronger than [the other] people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

Hebrews 7:9 And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.

Hebrews 7:10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

When Adam sinned we were **made** sinners in him. We receive from him a life, which has **already sinned**, is condemned and guilty.

1 Cor. 15:22. For as in Adam **all die**, even so in Christ shall **all be made alive.**

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the **body of sin might be destroyed**, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Christ as the **second Adam was humanity** and what **He did, we did in Him.** He took us **into Himself** and we were **made righteous** in Him. If we cannot accept the condemnation in Adam, then we cannot accept the gift of righteousness and eternal life in Christ, they go together.

Romans 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one [**judgment** came] upon **all men** to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [the **free gift** came] upon **all men** unto **justification of life.**

All benefit by the death of Christ, believer and unbeliever.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Ephesians 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition [between us];

Ephesians 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, [even] the law of commandments [contained] in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, [so] making peace;

Ephesians 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Ephesians 2:17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh

God is again **reconciled to humanity in Christ**. The 'in Christ idea' is the central theme of Paul's writings. The two Adams is the truth of how God dealt with Adam's **original** sin.

Christ lived and died as humanity to **bring us back to God** and to **destroy sin and death**.

The only reason we have life today is because, God saved humanity in His Son, dealt with the **original sin** (first sin) gave us the gift of **this life** and another probation. When we hear the good news of the gospel, our complete salvation in Christ, all have the choice to accept or reject the gift of a perfect righteousness and life, prepared for us in Christ. Without any choice we have been given the gift of this life because of the sacrifice of Christ. Every loaf of bread and every glass of water is stamped with the cross of Christ. By refusing to accept Christ as our righteousness one hundred percent, we refuse the gift of **eternal** life and in effect **reject the Son of God**.

SUBSTITUTION.

The law of God clearly prohibits an innocent man dying for the guilty – “the soul that sins it must die” **Deut. 24:16; Ezek. 18: 1-20**.

Christ came to save sinners. If we were sinless at birth, then a baby could not die and would not need a Saviour because it has not sinned. Sin is what takes us to the grave. This verse actually proves that we are sinners at birth; otherwise God would be going against His own Word and would be condemning the innocent.

The truth exposes the errors we have all been fed.

Christ took sinful humanity into Himself and was **made** to be sin; this is what qualified Him to be our Saviour. When He died **we died** in Him.

Christ left His power and glory with the Father but **He was always the divine Son of God. The Son of God died**, it was not just a **human sacrifice**. What He gave up did not take away from the fact of who He was. He always was and still is, **the divine Son of God**.

Only a divine sacrifice could vindicate God before the universe, destroy sin and death and prove Satan a liar.

Christ gave His life to clothe us with a garment without one thread of human devising.

Chap. 338 - God's Character Vindicated

Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Rev. 15:3.

Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy has now been made plain. The results of rebellion, the fruits of setting aside the divine statutes, have been laid open to the view of all created intelligences. The working out of Satan's rule in contrast with the government of God has been presented to the whole universe. Satan's own works have condemned him. God's wisdom, His justice, and His goodness stand fully vindicated. It is seen that all His dealings in the great controversy have been conducted with respect to the eternal good of His people and the good of all the worlds that He has created. . . . The History of sin will stand to all eternity as a witness that with the existence of God's law is bound up the happiness of all the beings He has created. With all the facts of the great controversy in view, the whole universe, both loyal and rebellious, with one accord declare: "Just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." {Mar 346.1}

Before the universe has been clearly presented the great sacrifice made by the Father and the Son in man's behalf. *The hour has come when Christ occupies His rightful position and is glorified above principalities and powers and every name that is named. It was for the joy that was set before Him--that He might bring many sons unto glory--that He endured the cross and despised the shame. And inconceivably great as was the sorrow and the shame, yet greater is the joy and the glory. He looks upon the redeemed, renewed in His own image, every heart bearing the perfect impress of the divine, every face reflecting the likeness of their King. He beholds in them the result of the travail of His soul, and He is satisfied. Then, in a voice that reaches the assembled multitudes of the righteous and the wicked, He declares: "Behold the purchase of My blood! For these I suffered, for these I died, that they might dwell in My presence throughout eternal ages." And the song of praise ascends from the white-robed ones about the throne: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." Revelation 5:12. {Mar 346.2}*

Desire of Ages, p 772.

*“But it was not the spear thrust, it was not the pain of the cross, that caused the death of Jesus. That cry, uttered “with a loud voice” (Matt. 27:50; Luke 23:46), at the moment of death, the stream of blood and water that flowed from His side, declared that He died of a broken heart. His heart was broken by mental anguish. **He was slain by the sin of the world.**”*

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw **all** [men] unto me.

John 12:33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

Ellen White, Desire of Ages, p 758

“Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds. The archapostate had so clothed himself with deception that even holy beings had not understood his principles. They had not clearly seen the nature of his rebellion.”

Those who will be saved at last will not be concerned for their own salvation, but motivated by agape love, to see the **character of God vindicated before the universe.**

SINFUL FLESH
by A. T. Jones

“There is a serious and very bothersome mistake which is made by many persons.

That mistake is made in thinking that when they are converted their old sinful flesh is blotted out.

In other words, they make the mistake of thinking that they are to be delivered from the flesh by having it taken away from them altogether.

Then when they find that this is not so, when they find that the same old flesh, with its inclinations, its besetments, and its enticements is still there, they are not prepared for it and so become discouraged and are ready to think that they never were converted at all.

And yet, if they would think a little, they ought to be able to see that that is all a mistake. Did you not have exactly the same body after you were converted that you had before? Was not that body composed of exactly the same material--the same flesh and bones and blood--after you were converted as that of which it was composed before? To these questions everybody will promptly say Yes. And plainly that is the truth.

And now there are further questions: Was not that flesh also of exactly the same quality as before? Was it not still human flesh, natural flesh, as certainly as it was before? To this also everybody will say Yes.

Then also a still further question: It being the same flesh and of the same quality--it still being human flesh, natural flesh--is it not also still just as certainly sinful flesh as it was before?

Just here is where creeps in the mistake of these many persons. To this last question they are inclined to think that the answer should be 'No,' when it must be only a decided 'Yes.' And this decided 'Yes' must be maintained so long as we continue in this natural body.

And when it is decided and constantly maintained that the flesh of the converted person is still sinful flesh and only sinful flesh, he is so thoroughly convinced that in his flesh dwells no good thing that he will never allow a shadow of confidence in the flesh. And this being so, his sole dependence is upon something other than the flesh, even upon the Holy Spirit of God. His source of strength and hope is altogether exclusive of the flesh, even in Jesus Christ only. And being everlastingly watchful, suspicious, and thoroughly distrustful of the flesh, he never can expect any good thing from that source, and so is prepared by the power of God to beat back and crush down without mercy every impulse or suggestion that may arise from it, and so does not fail, does not become discouraged, but goes on from victory to victory and from strength to strength.

Conversion, then, you see, does not put new flesh upon the old spirit but a new Spirit within the old flesh. It does not propose to bring new flesh to the old mind, but a new mind to the old flesh. Deliverance and victory are not gained by having the human nature taken away, but by receiving the divine nature to subdue and have dominion over the human--not by the taking away of the sinful flesh, but by the sending in of the sinless Spirit to conquer and condemn sin in the flesh.

The Scripture does not say, Let this flesh be upon you which was also upon Christ, but it does say, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2:5.

The Scripture does not say, Be ye transformed by the renewing of your flesh, but it does say, 'Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.' Rom. 12:2. We shall be translated by the renewing of our flesh, but we must be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

The Lord Jesus took the same flesh and blood, the same human nature, that we have, flesh just like our sinful flesh, and because of sin, and by the power of the Spirit of God through the divine mind that was in Him, "condemned sin in the flesh.' Rom. 8:3. And therein is our deliverance (Rom. 7:25); therein is our victory. 'Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.' 'A new heart will I give you, and a new Spirit will I put within you.'

Do not be discouraged at sight of sinfulness in the flesh. It is only the light of the Spirit of God, and by the discernment of the mind of Christ, that you can see so much sinfulness in your flesh, and the more sinfulness you see in your flesh, the more of the Spirit of God you certainly have. This is a sure test. Then when you see sinfulness abundant in you, thank the Lord that you have so much of the Spirit of God that you can see so much of the sinfulness and know of a surety that when sinfulness abounds, grace much more abounds in order that 'as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.'"