

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

November 17, 2018

Chocolate Cake

(Tested ...or Tempted?)

Recently my brother and sister-in-law were in a bible study class at church when the teacher began to talk about “Jesus also struggling with sin like we all do. After all, the Bible says Jesus ‘*was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin*’.” Hebrews 4:15. My sister-in-law spoke up and pointed out that the Greek word translated “*tempted*” simply meant “*tested*.” Jesus was tested with sin, but not tempted. She went on to explain: “If I like chocolate cake and someone offers me some, I will be tempted. But if I do not like chocolate cake and someone offers me some, I am not tempted, I am only tested. Jesus was tested, but there was never a desire for sinful things in his heart.”

Immediately those in the bible study class began to strongly object. My brother said he felt like they had stirred up some bumble bees. “Jesus struggled with sin just like all of us!” one man said. “Jesus was a man and I am sure he was tempted by the women around him!” a lady exclaimed. The objections were so intense that my brother had to interrupt and try to calm things down, and defend his wife.

What my sister-in-law said was absolutely correct. The Greek word translated “*tempted*” means “*to test*.” Two people can be tested with the same thing, yet one of them may desire it and

the other abhor it. Jesus Christ walked through the same world we live in and faced the hardships, attacks, and enticements that are common to humanity. He was tested in every manner as we are, yet the testing only discovered and proved that he was "WITHOUT SIN" Hebrews 5:15, because there was no sin in Him. | John 3:5. Shortly before going to the cross, Jesus told his disciples, "...the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." John 14:30. Satan attacked Jesus in every way he could, but never discovered or produced any sin IN HIM.

How is it we so easily ignore the words of Jesus? He said "...whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matthew 5:28. SIN IN THE HEART IS SIN! If Jesus desired sinful things in his heart would he not have been the greatest hypocrite of all? The reason there was no sin in Jesus's life is there was no sin in his heart or nature. This is the same reason the children of God are not sinners. Our heart and nature has been washed from sin by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Revelation 1:5.

Many years ago I realized that the great consolation of the modern church was not that they believed Jesus to be a mighty Savior who died to save them from sin, but they were consoled in the belief that everyone else was a sinner just as they were. They would not believe that Jesus died to make them righteous Romans 5:19, instead they comforted themselves with an erroneous understanding of the words "...there is none righteous, no, not one." Romans 3:10. Many mistakenly believed that everyone is unrighteousness, so unrighteousness must be acceptable to God. They ignored the fact that

these words were not written about the redeemed, but Paul said they spoke “...to them who are under the Law.” Romans 3:19.

Our generation has taken this false consolation one step farther. It is no longer enough to make every Christian a sinner. Now we must impute sin to Jesus Christ also. I know that very few will actually say “Jesus sinned,” but many (if not most) people in churches profess that he was tempted to sin in his heart. To them this seems to be an even greater consolation than believing every other Christian is a sinner. “If Jesus was tempted to do what I am tempted to do, then my sinful desires must be normal for a child of God.”

Let’s consider something for a moment. One man in a certain church has a struggle with anger. Another struggles with pornography. A third church member is continually troubled by envy and jealousy within. A fourth member has a gambling addiction. A fifth member is struggling with homosexuality. A sixth church member lives with hatred in their heart. And a seventh member finds himself lusting after women of the church. Each of these are consoled by the pastor who says Jesus was tempted to do the same thing they are dealing with, but he was able to overcome. No one considers that if this is true, then in Jesus’ heart he was “an angry pornographer, fighting envy and jealousy, seeking to abstain from gambling, and to control homosexual passions, warring with inner hatred, and working to subdue the lust for the women around him.”

If Jesus was “tempted” with the same sins that fill church members in this generation he would have been drawn to every corrupt and unclean

thing imaginable. If such a teaching is true, then he was the most depraved creature that ever walked upon this earth. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY NOT TRUE!!! Jesus never desired to commit a single sin. He is the *“lamb without blemish and without spot!”* I Peter 1:19. He is *“the holy one of God!”* Luke 4:34. He is *“the Lord from Heaven!”* I Corinthians 15:47.