

Christ Is Fallen Manhood Redeemed

You see, Jesus had to be fallen manhood redeemed. If he had another flesh, then he redeemed another race. But we believe that he redeemed our race, the human race. So his flesh, both the outward body and the inward soul, had to be like ours; now just similar to ours but exactly like ours. The Holy Spirit cleansed it of original sin at the very moment of conception but he did not take away the ability to sin. When Jesus was tempted, he could have chosen to give in. Sometimes he even wanted to give in. But he did not. He did not because the Holy Spirit helped him just like he helps us. He did not because he had perfect faith because of the encouragement of his Divine nature. He did not because he stayed in close fellowship with the Father; he prayed a lot. Now we do not have perfect faith, but our faith is growing and Jesus is always willing to let us use his. (“I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.” Gal.2:20)

We have grace to recover us when we fail. We will consider this more later. And we can spend time with the Father also, although we often do not take full advantage of this privilege. We have to be constantly reminded, and I say it more than once in this book, that temptation is not sin. It is the giving in to temptation that is sin. Jesus was often and sorely tempted; but he did not sin. He suffered more in his temptation than we do because he never gave in. He had to resist it constantly and in doing so he changed his flesh even before the resurrection. He defeated sin in the flesh.