The ONE TRUE CHURCH of GOD, part 6 quotes

1 "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." John 17:19.

The word "sanctify" translates and means: "to make holy, to purify or consecrate - including mentally, to hallow, be holy, sanctify" (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Greek word #37). This reveals that not one of us can become sanctified or made holy, purified and consecrated, through our own efforts, which means that without divine help, we will remain unsanctified and impure.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: **for without me** <u>ye can do nothing</u>." John 15:5.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13.

2 Why did Christ need to become sanctified Himself?

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good. For **before the child shall know to refuse** the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings." Isaiah 7:14-16. (NOTE: Butter symbolizes the smooth cleansing words of God, which provide nourishment, prosperity and blessings-Job 29:6; Psalms 55:21; Isaiah 7:22. Honey symbolizes the words of God which are sweet to the soul - Psalms 19:7-11, 119:103; Proverbs 24:13-14; Ezekiel 3:1-4; Revelation 10:10-11.)

These verses reveal that when Christ was born, he did not yet know the difference between good and evil, but it was something that He had to learn. This meant that when Christ was born He did not yet possess a perfected or sanctified character, but He Himself had to become sanctified by following the truth!

"Though he were a Son, <u>yet learned he obedience</u> by the things which he suffered; And <u>being made perfect</u>, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him". Hebrews 5:8-9.

The Greek word for "perfect" used in this text is "teleioo" and it translates and means "to complete, accomplish, consummate in character, to consecrate, finish, make perfect" (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, word #5048).

Even though Jesus Christ was the Son of God, yet He was born a human and thus did not already know the difference between good and evil. He had to learn this difference, and by continually choosing to refuse the evil and to follow the good, His character was made complete, consummated, consecrated and finished in perfection - becoming sanctified.

3 What caused Christ suffering?

"For in that **he (Christ) himself hath** <u>suffered being tempted</u>, he is able to succour them that are tempted." Hebrews 2:18.

The Greek word used for "tempted" in this text is "peirazo", and it translates and means "to test, entice, prove, tempt, try" (Strong's, word #3985). So Christ suffered being tempted or tested, enticed, proved and tried!

Who was it that was tempting Christ? The Devil, or Satan (Genesis 3:1-5; Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:13; Luke 4:2, 13; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 1 Thessalonians 3:5).

What caused Christ suffering every time He refused the evil and followed the good?

"For unto us **a (human) child is born, unto us a son is given**: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, <u>The mighty God</u>, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6.

"And, behold, thou shalt **conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a (human) son**, and shalt call his name JESUS. **He shall be great, and shall be called <u>the Son of the Highest (God)</u>: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David". Luke 1:31-32.**

"And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, **Truly this (human) man was the Son of God**." Mark 15:39.

These verses clearly reveal to us that Jesus Christ was both a God as well as a human man at the same time in one Person, which the Bible refers to as "the mystery of Godliness" (1 Timothy 3:16).

4 Can a God be tempted to do evil?

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for **God cannot be tempted with evil**, neither tempteth he any man". James 1:13.

Since Christ was both God and man at the same time in one Person, then how could the Devil tempt Him?

"And he saith unto him, Verily, Verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and **the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man**." John 1:51.

"Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, **Behold <u>the man</u> whose name is The BRANCH**; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and <u>he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of <u>peace shall be between them both</u>." Zechariah 6:12-13.</u>

"Also I say unto you, **Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son** of man also confess before the angels of God: But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God." Luke 12:8-9.

"Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And [Pilate] saith unto them, **Behold** the man!" John 19:5.

These verses plainly reveal that when Christ was living on this earth, He was living only in the human part of His nature, and not in the God part of His nature. Christ was still a God Himself, but He chose not to live in His divine nature, but to veil it with humanity and only live in His human nature. Since Christ was not living in His Godhood, but only in His human nature while on this earth, then the Devil could tempt Christ to commit sin.

5 But again, what caused Christ's human nature suffering every time He refused to commit sin?

"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:14-15.

The Greek word for "lust" used here is "epithumetes", which translates and means "a longing for what is forbidden, desire, lust after" (Strong's, word # 1939). Every human being is tempted when the Devil entices him to give in to evil lust, and if he does so then he commits sin which breaks God's law (1 John 3:4) and which will end in death (Romans 6:23).

Since the Bible declared that this was the man's "own lust", then this means that within each human being there are found evil lusts or longings or desires which the Devil then draws upon in order to tempt or entice us to depart from that which is good and to commit sin.

"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually**." Genesis 6:5.

"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, <u>sold under sin</u>. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but <u>sin that dwelleth in me</u>. For I know that <u>in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing</u>: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but <u>sin that dwelleth in me</u>. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law <u>in my members</u>, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin <u>which is in my members</u>." Romans 7:14-23.

This evil and sin which dwells within the heart of each human being is commonly referred to as the fallen nature or the sinful flesh. This fallen nature or sinful flesh of mankind can be likened to a storehouse containing all kinds of evil lusts and sinful desires. All these evil lusts and desires and thoughts are natural or inherent to fallen mankind, and a person does not need to commit these particular sins before they can have all these lustful desires.

6 "And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that **Cain rose up against Abel his brother**, and slew him." Genesis 4:8.

This was the very first occurrence of a human being killing another human being and breaking the 6th commandment by committing the sin of murder (Exodus 20:13; Romans 13:9). But Cain was not a murderer before this happened! So then the idea for Cain to murder his brother had to have come from another source!

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. **He was a** murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." John 8:44.

This verse reveals that the Devil was already a murderer, and so he then enticed Cain to murder his brother, and Cain sadly gave in to this evil temptation and committed the sin of murder. But notice that the verse does not state that the Devil was physically there to verbally tell Cain to kill his brother. So this shows that the temptation to murder had to have occurred from within Cain himself. This fact very clearly reveals that all these evil lusts and sinful desires stored within our sinful fallen flesh and nature originate from the Devil himself!

Adam and Eve were created with a pure, holy and unfallen nature like God and the holy angels possess. This meant that the Devil could not tempt them from within their heart, but only from without. Taking the form of a serpent that was physically in the branches of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, the Devil then verbally spoke to Eve and tempted or enticed her to break God's law and commit sin; which sadly both she and then Adam did (see Genesis 2:16-17, 3:1-6).

Their choice to sin instantly caused the loss of Adam and Eve's unfallen Godly nature, and in its place they obtained a fallen sinful nature like the Devil. It was then from their fallen sinful nature that the Devil enticed Adam and Eve from within to be fearful and to hide themselves from God, and when they were discovered Satan then enticed Adam to blame Eve for his own choice to sin, and for Eve to blame the serpent for her own choice to sin, thereby casting blame upon God who had created Eve as well as the serpent (see Genesis 3:8-13). Whereas none of this fearful hiding from God, or any of this blame-game, had ever before originated with Adam or Eve; but it did with Satan!

7 For you to experience these natural sinful urges does not mean that you have instantly become a sinner. Being tempted is not sinful itself, but if you follow the temptation this is when you become a sinner.

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which (when followed) defile a man (make him a sinner)". Matthew 15:19-20.

With this clearer understanding, let us re-read these verses from James:

"But every man is tempted (of the Devil), when he is drawn away of his own lust (which is natural and inherent from his sinful fleshly nature), and enticed (to commit sin). Then when lust hath conceived (the man has decided to follow it), it bringeth forth sin (the breaking of God's law): and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:14-15.