

THE PERFECT MAN

Only God is perfect. God cannot sin against Himself.

Created beings are not perfect as God is perfect.

The First Adam was not perfect as God is perfect because he had the ability to sin against God.

Adam was created without a sin nature but he chose to sin.

The Second Adam, Jesus Christ, was perfect because He is God.

Jesus came down from heaven and was made flesh.

The human nature of Jesus did not possess a sin nature because of His miraculous birth.

Jesus was tested to see if He would sin. He was even tempted or tested by Satan.

Jesus learned obedience in that He experienced all the trials of man and He responded perfectly.

The chastisement of our peace was upon Him in that He had to remain sinless to bring us peace with God. Jesus endured every trial of man even unto an unjust physical death and He remained sinless.

The perfect Man, Jesus Christ, was humanity's God-given substitute for Adam. Adam diminished creation to a state of sin and death and subjected humanity to affliction by Satan. The perfect, sinless, humanity of Jesus crucified in the flesh reclaimed authority for man over creation with power over sin, death, and Satan.

The perfect Man, Jesus Christ, came in the flesh to take away the sin of the world. His sinless death condemned sin to its ultimate destruction, and God the Father gave to Jesus all power, authority, and judgment over all creation.

Today the resurrected Jesus becomes the believer's God-given replacement for Adam. Through the believer's death to his sole relationship to Adam and through the new birth to a new relationship to Jesus Christ, the believer is "in Christ." Born of the Spirit with life from above, the believer is slowly transformed into the likeness of the perfect Man, Jesus Christ. Righteous actions grow in the believer as they are initiated by the Spirit and performed in the power of the Spirit.

Developing a relationship with Jesus Christ involves three stages.

Stage 1 is Recognition.

Recognizing personal sin and the need of a Savior is crucial and necessary.

Stage 2 is Regeneration.

Believing Jesus and calling upon Him in faith is answered by the Spirit with new birth, new family, eternal life, and a multitude of blessings.

Stage 3 is Transformation.

Much sin is gradually replaced with righteous actions. At physical death the sin nature of the believer is expunged. The believer enters heaven sinless, holy, and blameless.

The perfect Man is doing a perfect work. 1 Peter 4:1-19