

	Warning	Body content	Notes
18.1	Be careful, exceedingly careful as to how you dwell upon the human nature of Christ . Do not set him before the people as a man with the propensities of sin .	He is the second Adam. The first Adam was created a pure, sinless being, without a taint of sin upon him; he was in the image of God. He could fall, and he did fall through transgressing . Because of sin his posterity is born with inherent propensities of disobedience . But Jesus Christ was the only begotten Son of God. He took upon Himself human nature , and was tempted in all points as human nature is tempted. He could have sinned; He could have fallen, but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity . He was assailed with temptations in the wilderness , as Adam was assailed with temptations in Eden.	the Propensities of sin Genesis 1:26, 27 without a taint of inherent propensities of disobedience John 3:18 Hebrews 4:15 an evil propensity assailed with temptations
18.2	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."	Luke 1:31-35
19.1	Never, in any way, leave the slightest impression upon human minds	These words are not addressed to any human being, except to the Son of the Infinite God. 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 .	a taint of Hebrews 4:15 Luke 1:35 Hebrews 4:15 Deuteronomy 29:29
19.2	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 .	Philippians 2:8

19.3		<p>The first Adam fell: the second Adam held fast to God and His word under the most trying circumstances, and His faith in His Father's goodness, mercy, and love did not waver for one moment. "It is written" was His weapon of resistance, and it is the sword of the Spirit which every human being is to use. "Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me"--nothing to respond to temptation. Not one occasion has been given in response to His manifold temptations. Not once did Christ step on Satan's ground, to give him any advantage. Satan found nothing in Him to encourage his advances.</p>	<p>Ephesians 6:17 John 14:30</p>
------	--	--	--------------------------------------

YELLOW = humanity | GREEN = humanity blended with divinity | BLUE = choosing to sin | ORANGE = propensities | BOLD = Christ in temptation

The Desire of Ages (1898), pp. 122, 123 expands upon the Adam/Christ contrast in both the Baker letter (1895) 18.1 and 19.3:

DA 122.3, 123.0, 1	<p>In our own strength it is impossible for us to deny the clamors of our fallen nature. Through this channel Satan will bring temptation upon us. Christ knew that the enemy would come to every human being to, take advantage of hereditary weakness, and by his false insinuations to ensnare all whose trust is not in God. And by passing over the ground which man must travel, our Lord has prepared the way for us to overcome. . . . Let him who is struggling against the power of appetite look to the Saviour in the wilderness of temptation. See Him in His agony upon the cross, as He exclaimed, 'I thirst.' He has endured all that it is possible for us to bear. His victory is ours.</p>	18.1
DA 123.3 (cf. GC 623)	<p>'The prince of this world cometh,' said Jesus, 'and hath nothing in Me.' John 14:30. There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan's sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ's humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.</p>	19.3
DA 123.4	<p>By what means did He [Christ] overcome in the conflict with Satan? By the Word of God. Only by the Word could He resist temptation. 'It is written,' He said. And unto us are given 'exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.' 2 Peter 1:4. Every promise in God's Word is ours. 'By every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God' are we to live. When assailed by temptation, look not to circumstances or to the weakness of self, but to the power of the Word. All its strength is yours.</p>	<p>19.3 it is written assailed by temptations</p>

-- "**We need not retain one sinful propensity**. . . . As we partake of the divine nature, hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong are **cut away from the character**" (*Review and Herald*, April 24, 1900).

-- A very insightful study of Ellen White's uses of the terms "passions" and "propensities," is Ralph Larson, *The Word Was Made Flesh*, pp. 22-28.

-- "There is also a misunderstanding [in the alternative Christology] of certain terms, such as 'inherent propensities' and 'evil propensities.' These expressions are not analogous in Ellen White. A propensity is a tendency, a bent, an enticement to temptation. If resisted, it is not sin. 'Inherent propensities' become 'evil propensities' only after yielding to temptation" (J.R. Zurcher, *Touched With Our Feelings*, p. 281).