

Jesus Was Sinless

Intro: A plane landing safely is not news because it is normal. However, a man living a sinless life is not only news but it is good news (gospel). One of the most amazing things about Jesus is that He was sinless. Other men did miracles, were great teachers, etc., but no one else has ever lived a sinless life; Rom. 3:23 “²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” This, however, causes some men to doubt the sinlessness of Christ.

According to a Barna poll in 2001: more than two out every five adults (43%) believe that Jesus Christ lived on earth, He committed sins. Only 41% of Americans believe that Jesus lived a sinless life on earth.

The segments of the population more likely than average to believe that Jesus lived a sinless life:

- Baptist denomination, 63%
- “born again Christians,” 62:5
- Bible readers, 59%
- Republicans, 56%
- non-mainline attenders, 55%
- church attenders, 54%
- those living in the south, 47%.

Catholics are less likely nationwide to believe Jesus lived without sin: 33% of Catholics verses 41% of US adults.

I. THE DEMAND THAT HE BE SINLESS

A. Its purpose

1. It was necessary for Atonement.
 - a. Sacrifices were always required to be unblemished; Exo. 12:5 “⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats:”
 - b. Sin is offensive to God.
 - (1) God required a sinless offering to atone for man.
 - (2) He met His own demand; Heb. 9:14 “¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”
 - c. Christ would have destroyed God’s purposes and plan.
 - (1) If He had sinned, He would have needed saved instead of being able to atone for others.
 - (2) He is the one who had to provide satisfaction for sin.
 - (a) Rom. 5:11 “¹¹ And not only *so*, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”
 - (b) He is our propitiation.
 - (i) 1 John 2:2 “² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.”
 - (ii) Rom. 3:23-25 “²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; ²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: ²⁵ Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;”

2. It was needed for an example.
 - a. Scriptures affirm He is our example.
 - (1) John 13:15 ¹⁵ "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."
 - (2) Phi. 2:5 ⁵ "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"
 - (3) 1 Pet. 2:21-22 ²¹ "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: ²² Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:"
 - (4) 1 John 2:6 ⁶ "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."
 - b. Man can never be totally satisfied following an imperfect example.
 - c. Christ's perfect example inspires us to greater heights.
 - d. We follow Paul as he followed Christ; 1 Cor. 11:1 ¹ "Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ."

B. Its power demonstrated

1. Satan will flee
 - a. Jesus overcame the temptations of Satan, thus: Mat. 4:11 ¹¹ "Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."
 - b. Jam. 4:7 ⁷ "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
2. One in bondage (bondage of sin) could not destroy the one who had power of death; Heb. 2:14-15 ¹⁴ "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

II. THE DECLARATION THAT JESUS WAS SINLESS.

A. Jesus declared His own sinlessness.

1. John 8:46 ⁴⁶ "Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?"
2. Jesus never asked for pardon or forgiveness because He never sinned.
 - a. He never had to repent of sins.
 - b. He prayed for others forgiveness, but never His own; Luke 23:34 ³⁴ "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."

B. Jesus' enemies testified to His sinlessness.

1. The Pharisees:
 - a. They tried for 3 years to find fault with Him, but never could find any sin or flaw in His character.
 - b. They had to sin themselves to convict Him.
 - (1) They resorted to lying and perjury to do so along with illegal trials.
 - (2) Mark 14:55-59 ⁵⁵ "And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. ⁵⁶ For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. ⁵⁷ And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸ We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. ⁵⁹ But neither so did their witness agree together."
2. Pilate and his wife; Mat. 27:19-25 ¹⁹ "When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. ²⁰ But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. ²¹ The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. ²² Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus

which is called Christ? *They* all say unto him, Let him be crucified. ²³ And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but *that* rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye *to it*. ²⁵ Then answered all the people, and said, His blood *be* on us, and on our children.”

3. Judas; Mat. 27:4-5 “⁴Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What *is that* to us? see thou *to that*. ⁵ And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.”
4. Pilate and Herod; Luke 23:14-15 “¹⁴Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined *him* before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: ¹⁵No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.”
5. Thief on the cross; Luke 23:41 “⁴¹And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.”
6. The Centurion; Luke 23:47 “⁴⁷Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.”
7. Even the demons; Mark 1:24 “²⁴Saying, Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.”

C. Jesus’ followers testified to His sinlessness.

1. John the Baptist;
 - a. Jesus came to John to be baptized of him; Mat. 3:14 “¹⁴But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?”
 - b. John 1:29, 36 “²⁹The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. ³⁰This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. ³¹And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. ³²And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. ³³And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. ³⁴And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. ³⁵Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; ³⁶And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!”
2. Peter; 1 Pet. 2:22 “²²Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:”
3. John (the apostle); 1 John 3:5 “⁵And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.”
4. Paul; 2 Cor. 5:21 “²¹For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
5. Hebrews’ writer (who I believe to be Paul)
 - a. Heb. 4:15 “¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.”
 - b. Heb. 7:26 “²⁶For such an high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;”

Conclusion: Jesus is the sinless Son of God and as such He is that lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He is also that great example and when we follow that example in being obedient to the Father’s will, we will overcome Satan and be saved eternally.