

DF 476
1116 Elm Street
Lynwood, California
March 13, 1952

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Re: Nature of Christ

Dear Brother White:

I have given further consideration to "Ms. Release, No. 50," and after going over it several times I am more convinced of the truth stated on p. 3, P. 1, that "the incarnation of Christ has ever been and will ever remain a mystery." (Letter 8, 1895) And yet we are reproved in another place for lack of knowledge of the incarnation, which is attributed to a lack of deep Bible study. Certainly we should study this great central fact in the plan of redemption, even tho there are mysteries that cannot be solved.

I am wondering if we have any further light on what the brother addressed in Letter 8, 1895 was saying concerning which Sister White was cautioning him. I am wondering, too, whether it would be possible to make a fuller study of all Sr. White wrote on the two questions set forth in this document.

It seems to me that the human nature of Christ is not very clear, and certainly some are confused by Sr. White's statements that divinity did not die.

On p. 1, P. 2 (Ms. 21, 1895), we read that Christ came as "a helpless babe bearing the humanity we bear." That certainly applies to the present generation of men. Then on p. 2, P. 1, it says that He was not a "man with the propensities of sin," yet it says that Adam's posterity was born with inherent propensities of disobedience." (Letter 5, 1895) In the same letter we read that "no taint or inclination to corruption rested upon Christ."

On the face of it this looks as the Christ would have the advantage of us.

However, on p. 4, P. 1, we read "Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity. What these results were is shown in the history of His earthly ancestors." (D. A., p. 46)

Again we are told that "When we give to His human nature a power that it is not possible for man to have in his conflict with Satan, we destroy the completeness of His humanity." (Ms. 1, 1892)

The corollary statements regarding the death of Christ are perplexing to many. Eld. Andreasen read that article in the Instructor of Aug. 4, 1898 years ago, and at first thought of speaking on the subject of divinity not dying, but decided not to do so, fearing misunderstandings. But these statements are known by many of our workers, and every year, I think, Seminary students have brought up this question in the theology class. This led Eld. Andreasen to give it further study, and try to explain. Eld. Bransen heard about the discussion, and got quite worked up about it. In fact he wrote out a statement, for his son, I believe, rebutting the idea that divinity didn't die. Eld. Andreasen did not enter into any argument about it.

Here we have on p. 7, P. 1, (Ms. 140, 1903) the statement that "Deity did not sink under the agonizing torture of Calvary." And in P. 3, (Inst., Aug. 4, 1898) we are told that "Christ came forth from the grave to life that was in Himself. Humanity died; divinity did not die." It would seem from this that the divine life in Christ brought His human life back; for it immediately says that, "In His divinity, Christ possessed the power to break the bands of death." And then we have on p. 8, P. 1 (Letter 280, 1904) the statement that "Deity did not sink and die; that would have been impossible."

Eld. Andreasen told me that there is a statement that divinity did sink and that Bro. Robinson in considering these statements concluded that divinity did sink, but did not sink and die. I wonder if there is such a statement.

To me the statement must be true that Deity could not die. We are told in Letter 280, 1904 (Ms. p. 8) that "The two natures were mysteriously blended in one person." Perhaps the fact that one of these natures died and the other didn't will ever remain a mystery. In the Ms., p. 3, P. 1, (Letter 8, 1895) it is said that "The exact time when humanity blended with divinity, it is not necessary for us to know." As I understand the Spirit

of prophecy, Christ is to retain His human nature forever, so there is no time when these two natures have been or will be separated.

As I have said before, I wish further research could be made before releasing this unpublished matter. Could we not have everything that has been written by Sr. White? If possible, it would be fine if a few of our clearest thinking Bible students could make a special study of the Scriptures and Spirit of prophecy on these subjects. But that may not be possible, or the Trustees will not think further research necessary. If the Trustees, after further consideration, think best to release this matter as it is, I will go along with you on it. If you do go forward, I suggest that the published excerpts as given in this document be submitted to the Officers also.

[Signed] M. E. Kern