

That has a meaning that goes far beyond the matters of punishment or even of chastisement. "Take fast hold of Musar." What did Jesus do?

There was an article in Biblical Bulletin not long ago in answer to a question someone put in: Was it possible for Jesus to sin? Could Jesus have sinned if he had wanted to? It may seem like a very theoretical sort of thing. But actually it is quite important. There have been those who have taught God is up there; man is down here. And God came to earth, and something walked around that looked like a man and gave wonderful teachings and eventually was put up on a cross. But that was no man; that was God. It was sort of a shadow play. Why would God need to go through that? What is the point of it all?

There is far more to the atonement than that. Jesus Christ came down and became man. He was one person, he was fully God and fully man. Charles Hodge, perhaps wrote the finest reformed theology that ever has been written and it was the primary text book in the field of systematic theology for nearly a century. There are other books easier to read now, because when he wrote practically everybody could read Latin as well as English. So when he wanted to quote from a theologian he just quotes the Latin. Today people skip those passages and often miss the best part of it.

There was a man who should know better; he even had a Ph.D. in public speaking ~~in~~ and another Th.D. from a theological seminary, who wrote == he read my article in the Biblical Bulletin and he wrote in there something about the terrible heresy of saying that Jesus was able to sin. He said, Of course our Lord could not sin. It is heresy to think that Jesus could sin, and that Jesus had impulses to sin. If Jesus could not sin he is no Saviour of ours. Hebrews tells us he was tempted in all points like as we are yet without sin.

The wonderful thing about Jesus is not that God came down in some kind of a beautiful play and walked around here and looked like a man but he wasn't. Jesus was a real man, subject to the sufferings and to the impulses that we have and he was able to resist them. Hodge says very strictly, Jesus was free from sin; He had to be free from sin; it is vital for our Christian life to know that He was sinless, but he says, this sinlessness of our Lord does not amount to absolute impeccability. It was not a non potest peccare. And this little sheet I referred to quoted the Latin. It said non potest peccare is heresy. We would say=== No, that is correct it says. What I just said, potest non peccare is heresy, it said.

Hodge said he was true man, and he must have been capable of sinning. That he did not sin under the greatest provocations and that when he was reviled he blessed, when he suffered, he threatened not. He was dumb as a sheep before its shears. He is held up to us as an example. Jesus was able to and did resist sin. Jesus' life was an active thing. Jesus by his sinless life, which was not a mere pretense, but showed that he was able to resist sin. Jesus by his voluntarily going to the cross-- he procured our well-being.