

The Perfect Shepherd

“For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” Heb 2:17-18

A. Temptations – Tests – Suffering

B. He was made like us in every way

1) He shared our humanity

2) He was tempted

⇒ The focus of his temptations

⇒ The source of his temptations

⇒ The reality of his temptations

Question

In what ways do we sometimes underplay the humanity of Christ? Why do we do this and what are the consequences?

C. He is able to help us

1) *Sympathy*

2) *Cleansing*

3) *Confidence*

Questions

1. *Jane is a Christian. She suffers with a chronic disability. Her husband has informed her that this is not what he signed up for and he is going to leave her for a woman at work. She is very angry with her husband but more than that she feels anger and bitterness towards God. How would you help her ?*

2. *Peter has been a Christian for over 25 years. During all that time he has struggled with pornography. Most of the time he has it under control, but a couple of times a year he gives in to the temptation. He seeks your counsel with a question, "After I have sinned I feel so ashamed of myself and it makes me wonder whether I am a real Christian. Surely I should have conquered this temptation by now." How would you help him?*