

## Fylgiskjal 4

Dallimore Arnold – *The Life of Edward Irving* - bls. 79-80

It is possible to present a selection of passages from Irving which set forth a certain view of his belief in this matter. But it is equally possible to present a selection of passages which set forth a different view. Nevertheless, after all he said on the subject has been examined, one can find nothing which reveals his belief as plainly as this report from Henry Cole.

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But though Irving's doctrine seems strange we must do our best to understand it. It may be summarized as follows:

1. In coming to earth Christ did not take the human nature possessed by Adam *before* the fall, but *after* the fall, and therefore it was fallen, corrupt, depraved human nature.

2. Because of this fallen nature He was subject to the same evil tendencies and the same temptations as other men, and thus His life was a continual battle against sin and Satan.

3. Christ's battle was a real one – as real as that of any man. Irving emphasizes that it would have been unfair for Him to have

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had 'God mixed up with His human nature' – such a condition would have given Him an unfair advantage over ordinary human beings. Christ fought our fight – the very battle we all continually experience – subject to all our sinful tendencies and weaknesses.

4. Nevertheless, Christ was always victorious. This, however, was not the result of any special strength in Himself, but it came from the baptism with the Holy Spirit which He received at the beginning of His ministry. The Holy Spirit was so powerfully operative in His life that although His nature was sinful His life remained sinless.

5. Accordingly, Christ is the supreme Example to all mankind. He, in His nature as man, stands before us as the One who always triumphed over sin and Satan. Towards the close of his life Irving published a sermon *Jesus Our Example*<sup>2</sup> in which he urged men to walk in Christ's steps, and this sermon, he said, contained the essence of his view on the Person of Christ and the way of salvation.

6. The Holy Spirit, by whom Christ obtained victory is equally available to all of us, and we may experience the same baptism with the Spirit and be endued with the same power as that which was exercised in Christ.

7. Therefore, Christ, as He came to the close of His activity on earth was able to present to God a perfect human nature. This perfect human nature God accepted, and He did so not merely as to its effect on behalf of Christ, but concerning its effect also on behalf of all mankind. In turn, this acceptance, this coming together of God with man, Irving terms 'reconciliation' and 'at-one-ment' and this great work was accomplished by Christ, not in His death, but in His life.