

# Did Christ's Deity Die on the Cross?

**The divine Son of God was the only sacrifice of sufficient value to fully satisfy the claims of God's perfect law.** The angels were sinless, but of less value than the law of God. They were amenable to law. They were messengers to do the will of Christ, and before him to bow. They were created beings, and probationers. Upon Christ no requirements were laid. He had power to lay down his life, and to take it again. No obligation was laid upon him to undertake the work of atonement. It was a voluntary sacrifice that he made. His life was of sufficient value to rescue man from his fallen condition. [RH December 17, 1872, par. 4](#)

Jesus said to Mary, "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father." When he closed his eyes in death upon the cross, **the soul of Christ did not go at once to Heaven**, as many believe, or how could his words be true—"I am not yet ascended to my Father"? **The spirit of Jesus slept in the tomb with his body**, and did not wing its way to Heaven, there to maintain a separate existence, and to look down upon the mourning disciples embalming the body from which it had taken flight. All that comprised the life and intelligence of Jesus remained with his body in the sepulcher; and when he came forth it was as a whole being; he did not have to summon his spirit from Heaven. He had power to lay down his life and to take it up again. [3SP 203.2 \(1878\)](#)

When the voice of the angel was heard saying, "Thy Father calls thee," He who had said, "I lay down my life that I may take it again," "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again," **came forth from the grave to life that was in Himself.** [\[John 10:17; 2:19.\]](#) **Deity did not die. Humanity died**, but Christ now proclaims over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, "I am the resurrection and the life." [\[John 11:25.\]](#) In His divinity Christ possessed the power to break the bonds of death. **He declares that He had life in Himself to quicken whom He will.** [12LtMs, Ms 131, 1897, par. 1](#)

... Jesus Christ laid off His royal robe, His kingly crown, and clothed His divinity with humanity, in order to become a substitute and surety for humanity, that **dying in humanity He might by His death destroy him who had the power of death. He could not have done this as God**, but by coming as man Christ could die. By death He overcame death. The death of Christ bore to the death him who had the power of death, and opened the gates of the tomb for all who receive Him as their personal Saviour. [13LtMs, Lt 97, 1898, par. 11](#), "Brethren in North Fitzroy".

There is no one who can explain the mystery of the incarnation of Christ. Yet we know that He came to this earth and lived as a man among men. The man Christ Jesus was not the Lord God Almighty, yet Christ and the Father are one. **The Deity did not sink under the agonizing torture of Calvary**, yet it is nonetheless true that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."— [\[John 3:16.\]](#) [18LtMs, Ms 140, 1903, par. 28](#), "The Fall of Our First Parents", **1903**, *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, pp. 1129, 1130.

Was the human nature of the Son of Mary changed into the divine nature of the Son of God? No; **the two natures were mysteriously blended in one person—the Man Christ Jesus**. In Him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. **When Christ was crucified, it was His human nature that died. Deity did not sink and die; that would have been impossible.** Christ, the sinless One, will save every son and daughter of Adam who accepts the salvation proffered them, consenting to become the children of God. The Saviour has purchased the fallen race with His own blood. [21MR 418.5](#)

This is a great mystery, a mystery that will not be fully, completely, understood in its greatness until the translation of the redeemed shall take place... 21MR 418.6 -Ellen White, a letter about Kellogg to "Ministers, Physicians, and Teachers." 9/3/1904

"I am the resurrection, and the life." He who had said, "I lay down my life, that I might take it again," came forth from the grave to life that was in himself. **Humanity died; divinity did not die.** In his divinity, Christ possessed the power to break the bonds of death. He declares that he has life in himself to quicken whom he will. [YI January 3, 1905, par. 1](#)

Laying aside his royal robe and kingly crown, Christ clothed his divinity with humanity, that human beings might be raised from their degradation, and placed on vantage-ground. Christ could not have come to this earth with the glory that he had in the heavenly courts. Sinful human beings could not have borne the sight. **He veiled his divinity with the garb of humanity, but he did not part with his divinity. A divine-human Saviour**, he came to stand at the head of the fallen race, to share in their experience from childhood to manhood. That human beings might be partakers of the divine nature, he came to this earth, and lived a life of perfect obedience. [RH June 15, 1905, par. 12](#)

#### **CONFLICTING STATEMENT:**

"In him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." Men need to understand that **Deity suffered and sank under the agonies of Calvary**. Yet Jesus Christ whom God gave for the ransom of the world purchased the church with His own blood. The Majesty of heaven was made to suffer at the hands of religious zealots, who claimed to be the most enlightened people upon the face of the earth ([MS 153, 1898](#)), "Notes of Travel"(seems like a diary entry; maybe a typo; maybe wasn't meant to be published; post-1895... -Sid). Also published in the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 907.