

The Passion of the Cross

Psalm 41:7-9; Isaiah 53:1-9; Psalm 22:1-21

The passion of the cross was the last temptation which the Lord, as the greatest Prophet, endured, and was the means whereby His Human was glorified, that is, whereby it was united with the Divine of the Father. (*True Christian Religion* 126.6)

The Lord from His earliest childhood up to the last hour of His life in the world, was assaulted by all the hells, against which He continually fought, and subjugated [put under His control] and overcame them, and this solely from love toward the whole human race. (*Arcana Coelestia* 1690)

The Lord was born on earth as a baby. His earthly body and mind were from His mother, Mary, but He was always the Lord as to His most inner part—His soul. The most amazing miracle of all time is how the Lord changed His earthly body and mind into His Divine Human. He did this by overcoming one temptation after another so that by the time He suffered His final temptation on the cross, He had conquered all the hells. This process is called the Glorification.

Glorification is similar to the process people go through as they choose to become angels to eternity. This process is called regeneration or spiritual rebirth. Unlike the Lord, a person's earthly body does not become spiritual as he or she overcomes temptations, nor does a person on earth have to fight against all of the hells. However, like the Lord, each time a person chooses good over evil, a part of the person's earthly mind becomes more heavenly. When this process is complete, the person is an angel. He or she is regenerated.

The diagram below is a picture of a person's mind. Although no one is born evil, everyone starts out with inclinations to do evils. The diagram below names some of the evils that a person might be tempted to choose. Think about how a person could completely overcome the temptation to do that evil. For example, over "bullying" you might write "kindness". Then, using a red marker or crayon, write an opposing good over top of each word. When you are finished filling in each box, you will have a picture of an angel's mind filled with goodness and love.

Denying the Lord	Cheating	Stealing
Gossiping	Bullying	Hurting
Lying	Hating	Coveting

The earthly human mind the Lord had from Mary was completely filled with Divine Love and Divine Goodness, and so it became completely Divine.