

One or Two Natures

Which one will you feed? – flesh versus spiritual

(Romans 7:15,21,23) Paul said, “For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate...I find then the principle that evil is present in me...but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.”

The Struggle Within

With external spiritual forces (Eph 6:12) “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places”

With internal sinful nature (Gal 5:17) “For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please”

Read a Paraphrase of Romans 7 (vs 7-25)

(Eph 4:22-24) old self (former manner of life) vs new self (likeness of God)

The Two Natures

One person – two natures

New nature – “born again” “controlled by Holy Spirit”

Old Nature – “sinful” “controlled by self”

Holy Spirit will help us overcome the old nature

(I John 4:4) “Greater is He (Holy Spirit) who is in you than he (devil) who is in the world”

(2 Cor 3:18) “But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit”

Sanctification

Greek word “to be separate” or “set apart for a purpose”

(Rom 15:16) believer is being “sanctified by the Holy Spirit”

daily abide in Christ and obey His Word – successful Spirit dominated life

1. the moment you receive Christ there is an immediate sanctification
2. as we progress in the Christian life there is a “progressive sanctification”
3. when we go to heaven there will be a total and “complete” sanctification called “glorification”

(I Peter 1:15,16) “Like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am Holy’”

(I John 3:2) “We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is”

(Gal 5:16) “Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh”

The Old Self

Eve had a desire to “know” (based on self) – Satan turned healthy desire into unhealthy – Eve disobeyed God

Flesh – unperfected human nature – self – self-life – selfish

Try to control it on our own – leads to failure

Has a mind of its own – not subject to the law of God

God has no confidence in our flesh (Rom 7:18)

New person in God – yield to Holy Spirit (Ps 37:4)

The Battle with the Flesh

(Gal 5:17) “For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another”

the flesh wants one thing – the Spirit wants another

Spiritual warfare every day – fighting the flesh and yielding to the Spirit

Requires surrendering to the Holy Spirit (Rom 12:1)

The Works of the Flesh – Galatians 5

First Set –

1. Immorality – sexual wickedness – Gk porneia
2. Impurity – any kind in thought or deed
3. Sensuality – wantonness, debauchery, reckless shamelessness

Second Set –

1. Idolatry – worship of false gods – separate us from God
2. Sorcery – witchcraft – magical potions and drugs
3. Enmities – hatred
4. Strife – contentions, discord, fighting, quarreling
5. Jealousy – envy
6. Outbursts of anger – wrath, unrighteous fits of rage
7. Disputes – selfish ambitions, self-seeking, selfishness
8. Dissensions – divisions (Believers are to be of one mind)
9. Factions – heresies, sects
10. Envyings – resentment at the excellence or good fortune of another
11. Drunkenness – overindulgence in alcohol
12. Carousings – orgies

(Gal 5:21) “Those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Professing versus Practicing Christians

True freedom consists not in the freedom to sin, but the freedom not to sin.

Those who live in the flesh can be changed only by the Spirit of God.

(Gal 5:24) “Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.