

“THE TWO NATURES”

Lesson 37

1. The unsaved person has only ONE NATURE while the believer in Christ has TWO:
Galatians 5:17

- A. The FLESHLY nature
- B. The NEW nature

2. The old nature REMAINS after salvation. Romans 7

3. When a person becomes a BELIEVER IN CHRIST the battle begins. John 3:6

*As a believer grows in the Lord, Jesus becomes his life. The growth does not come from rushing from one meeting to another or by staying busy doing “stuff” but rather will come by spending time with God in His word. Give the new nature the food it needs to grow and mature in the Lord.

4. The unsaved person is known in scripture by many names and/or titles, one of which is the NATURAL MAN. 1 Cor. 2:14

5. Several things are CHARACTERISTIC of the natural man:

- A. He is born in TRESPASSES AND SIN. Ephesians 2:1&2
- B. He PRODUCES the works of the FLESH. Galatians 5:19-21
- C. He is by nature a CHILD OF WRATH. Ephesians 2:3 (see KJV)

6. There are many names for unbelievers, as mentioned in statement number four (this lesson). Some of these names are as follows:

- A. The FLESH John 3:6a, Romans 8:8
- B. The CARNAL mind Romans 8:7
- C. The SENSUAL man Jude 19 (KJV) natural instincts (NIV)

James 3:15: Sensual (KJV)/unspiritual (NIV)

- D. Men of BLINDED or HARDENED hearts. Ephesians 4:18
- E. The OLD MAN or old self. Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:9
- F. The OUTWARD MAN (KJV) 2 Corinthians 4:16: (NIV) outwardly

7. Jesus presented the logical order of sin in Mark 7:20-23

- A. Out of the HEARTS of men man’s nature.
- B. Evil THOUGHTS man’s mind
- C. OUTWARD sins man’s actions

8. The END RESULT of the natural man is SPIRITUAL death. Romans 5:12; 8:5-7
9. Spiritual death is EVERLASTING destruction from the PRESENCE of the Lord.
2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
10. What are the characteristics of the SPIRITUAL MAN?
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| A. He is <u>BORN OF THE SPIRIT</u> . | John 3:6 |
| B. Christ <u>LIVES IN HIM</u> . | Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27 |
| C. He will <u>PRODUCE FRUIT</u> . | Gal. 5:22 & 23 |
| D. He will <u>WALK IN THE SPIRIT</u> . | Gal. 5:24-26 |
| E. He is <u>CLEAN</u> through the <u>WORD</u> . | John 15:3 |
| F. He will <u>ABIDE IN CHRIST</u> . | John 15:4 |
| G. He is a new <u>CREATION</u> . | 2 Cor. 5:17 |
| H. He receives a <u>DIVINE</u> nature. | 2 Peter 1:3 & 4 |
11. The new nature has been given many scriptural names:
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| A. <u>CHRISTIAN</u> | Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16 |
| B. <u>NEW MAN</u> or new self | Ephesians 4:24 |
| C. <u>SAINTS</u> | Ephesians 2:1; Romans 1:7 |
| Many of Paul's opening verses to the various churches to which he wrote. | |
| D. <u>PRIESTS</u> | 1 Peter 2:5 & 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10 |
| E. <u>AMBASSADORS</u> | 2 Cor. 5:20 |
| F. <u>CHILDREN OF GOD</u> | Romans 8:16-21 (His heirs) |
| G. The <u>TEMPLE OF GOD</u> | 1 Cor. 3:16 |
12. What is the END RESULT of the spiritual man?
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| A. He is among the <u>REDEEMED</u> , a part of the <u>BRIDE OF CHRIST</u> . | Eph. 5:23-33 |
| B. He will be <u>RAPTURED</u> . | 1 Thess. 4:13-18 |
| C. Countless other promises | |

Conclusion

All believers have two natures - the old Adamic nature and the nature born of the Spirit of God. Paul illustrates the battle of these two natures in the life of all Christians. In Romans 7:15-25, Paul speaks of the strife in his own soul between the flesh and the Spirit. The old nature is not dead. No provision should be made for the flesh (Romans 13:14). The old nature should be starved out by the Word of God.

The Christian must *accept the fact* that the old nature is always present. The Bible says to mortify the flesh - put it to death (Colossians 3:5). The great lesson is this - the old life has become a new life in Christ: "we should walk in the newness of life" (Romans 6:4). The new life is to be nourished by the cleansing Word of God, which washes and makes clean (John 15:3;

17:17; Ephesians 5:26). The new life in Christ means that one has become a new creation but is born as a babe in Christ. Give the Lord time enough in your life to grow from “the milk of the Word” (1 Peter 2:2) to “strong meat” (Hebrews 5:12, 14). Spiritual food will starve the old nature. When you do sin, confess it only to God through Christ. Use the Christian’s “bar of soap” several times each day. That “bar of soap” is found in 1 John 1:9. Memorize the verse. When you sin, confess and *forget it*. The verse not only says, “If we confess our sins He will forgive,” but it also says, “He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Let the Holy Spirit guide and direct your life. He will guide you into all truth (John 16:13).