

## LESSON 9: THE TRUTH: NOT TWO NATURES BUT ONE

### INTRODUCTION

We know we are born with a sin nature, but after we become saved, do we now have two natures? As is commonly seen in commercials and movies, many believe that we have the good nature or the angel on one shoulder telling us the right thing to do while the bad nature or the devil is on the other shoulder trying to talk us into doing wrong. This belief that we have two natures is wrong! We can only have one nature in us.

### THE FALL OF MAN

#### **Read Genesis 2:17 and 3:1-7**

- ▶ If Adam and Eve do not have a sin nature, how do they end up sinning?

This all took place in the Garden of Eden. At this point, sin had not entered the world and Adam and Eve did not have a sin nature, but a nature committed to obeying God. Satan had already sinned and was kicked out of heaven.

Look at God's command in Genesis 2:17. All He commands is **not to eat** from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In Genesis 3:3, Eve says that God told them **to not eat or touch** the tree. We already begin to see a shift in Eve's thinking as she begins to debate and doubt what God has said and what the serpent is now saying.

- ❖ Satan makes Eve question God's word leading to doubt. **(v.1)**
  - In misquoting God, she opens herself up to Satan, and gives him the opportunity to lie to her.
- ❖ Satan gives a clear refuting of God's word and says God is a liar. **(v.4-5)**
  - This leads to even more doubt in Eve.
- ❖ Desire arises that drives Eve's decision to believe Satan's lies. **(v. 6-7)**
  - Eve now begins to see the tree as good for food even though she previously had not.
  - An emotional shift occurs in her that causes her to feel that this fruit is a delight and desirable to make her wise.

The desire itself is not a sin, but it is the source of temptation. If Eve had realized that her desires went against what God said and had turned back to God, then she would not have sinned. The basis of her sin is that she believed Satan and not God.

From the point that Adam and Eve sinned, we now see sin being transferred from one generation to the next and controlling every person in the Old Testament. Adam and Eve sinned

not because they have an “old man,” but once they sinned that “old man” is now within them. The sin principle now lives within them. The nature that they had that loved God is now corrupt and no longer in them.

### **DEATH OF THE OLD NATURE**

If you examine the morality of the godly men of the Old Testament and the New Testament, you will see a drastic difference. In the Old Testament people like Abraham, Jacob, and David all had moral issues. They are married to several women and cannot control their sexual desire. On the other hand, the godly men of the New Testament like Paul, Peter, and James did not have affairs or have children out of wedlock.

#### **Read Romans 6:6-12**

- ▶ Why is there such a difference in morality from the Old Testament to the New Testament?

In the Old Testament you have a combination of the Law that told them what to do and the old nature that rebelled against everything in the Law. Without the new nature given to us after salvation, even the godly men of the Old Testament had a difficult time following the Law because the old nature was constantly in rebellion.

In the New Testament we see that the flesh or old nature is crucified or killed with Christ. Crucifixion and death on the cross was one of the most violent ways for someone to die in their time. It was a place of shame and death. The cross could be compared to the electrocution chair of our day. With this killing of the old nature, the sin principle in man is no longer effective.

In the Old Testament the people were enslaved to sin as the lost are still enslaved to sin. Once you come to Christ and accept His sacrifice and Him as Lord and Savior, then your sin nature has been crucified or killed. At the point of salvation we have died together with Christ and the old man is killed off.

Romans 6:8 clearly states that “we have died with Christ; we believe that we shall also live with Him.” Because Christ rose from the dead, death no longer reigns over us. The old man that we are born with is now gone and the new nature has come in us.

### **THE NEW NATURE**

#### **Read Romans 8:8-11**

- ▶ What is this new nature?

The new nature in us is the Holy Spirit.

#### **Read Romans 7:24-25**

- ▶ Why is Paul struggling between the law of God and the flesh?

It appears that this struggle occurred before Paul was saved. Paul says that Christ is the one who will deliver him from the problems he has and he needs deliverance. Through salvation, Christ delivers us from sin and gives us victory. The beginning of the book of Romans walks through salvation, the old nature, and the new nature.

- ❖ Romans 1-4: Our salvation and how to come to Christ.
- ❖ Romans 5: Jesus as our Victory and all that He did.
- ❖ Romans 6: Our old man is dead.
- ❖ Romans 7: The struggle we had before salvation.
- ❖ Romans 8: We no longer have that struggle because we now possess the person of the Holy Spirit.

### **Read Romans 8:8-11**

- ▶ How do Christians still sin if the old man is no longer in us and the Holy Spirit dwells in us?

In Genesis 3 we see this process of falling into sin...

No sin principle → believe Satan → Killed off good nature → now in rebellion against the law

According to Romans 8 the sin nature led to...

Jesus died on the cross → the old nature was crucified on the cross → new nature as the Holy Spirit dwells in us → we have the choice to live according to the flesh or the Spirit

- ❖ We believe the lies of Satan because we are spiritually immature. **(Romans 8:8-11)**
  - Just as Adam and Eve sinned without a sin nature, so we sin by believing what Satan says and not God.
  - The battle is against what God writes in the Bible and in our hearts vs. the whispers of the enemy.
  - God only writes down what we should do once, but the enemy whispers in our ears all day long.
- ❖ We are prideful. **(2 Corinthians 12:7-10)**
  - Pride leads to a focus on ourselves and not the Holy Spirit.
  - God was forced to give Paul a thorn in the flesh to keep him humble and dependent on the Holy Spirit.
  - Become prideful → Judgment → God disciplines → Humility and dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Conforming to the world and not renewing our minds in Christ.
  - Much like Adam and Eve we no longer live in the flesh.
  - We sin when we believe the teachings of the age instead of what God tells us.
  - Example: Our age teaches us (we teach it to our children) that they have to have a good self-image, but children don't need a good self-image but need a bad self-image. They need to understand that their value is not tied to who they are but

is tied to who they are in Jesus Christ. You don't want them to start loving themselves. They are born to love themselves. This is the reason Jesus Christ says to deny yourself which means "I can't let my self-love drive my life." I have to love Him with all my heart, mind, soul and strength. I have to love others as I love myself. Those two things become truth. The idea that I must love myself is in error.

## **CONCLUSION**

Desires themselves are not sin. Believing the lies of the enemy and no longer listening to God is sin. Desires for the wrong things follow after we decide to believe the lies. If you have a desire in your life that is moving you away from Christ then don't fight the desire. Figure out what it is in the Word of God that you don't believe that has created that desire.

### **Read Ephesians 5:18**

- ▶ How do we stop sinning and believing the lies of the enemy?

Keep on being filled with the Spirit. The Holy Spirit will remind you of passages of Scripture, interpret those passages, warn you, direct you, and show you what to believe. If you are continually allowing the Holy Spirit to work in you, then the lies and desires will no longer erupt from you in the wrong way.

We have one nature: the Holy Spirit. The old man has been killed off. How do you live under the old man? You believe the wrong thing by listening to the whisper of the enemy instead of what God writes in His word. So the Bible better be at the center of your life. The enemy is good and if you don't know the principles in God's Word he will talk you into something that is not true. You do not ask for the Holy Spirit, but believe that He dwells in you. God uses brokenness as a way to make us dependent on the Holy Spirit.