

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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An Unnatural Condition

Suppose a young man was involved in an accident and lost an arm and a leg. As he recovers, he is forced to adjust to life without the use of these two important members. It is a great struggle, but he relearns how to do almost every task involved in his life. Simple things are now complicated. Tasks he once took for granted, like dressing himself or preparing a meal, instantly become incredibly difficult to this man. Yet with training, assistance and sheer determination he pushes on through life. In the months and years that follow, he adjusts to this new reality of life and even amazes others with how well he can function. As decades pass, his manner of life almost seems natural to him ...but it is not! This situation was caused by a horrible tragedy, and it is not natural at all.

It is not natural for a person to be a sinner. So what if that has been the condition of humanity for many thousands of years? So what that every life experience tells you this is just what being human is? We were not created to be sinners. God created man in his image and likeness Genesis 1:26, and crowned him with glory and honor." Psalms 8:5. Sin was brought upon humanity through a great tragedy. Something horrible entered our hearts that perverted the very essence of what it means to be human. We may call it a sinful nature, but it is not natural!

The Bible says *"...by one man's disobedience many were made sinners..."* Romans 5:19. All of us were *"made sinners"* when sin *"entered the world"* through Adam's transgression. Romans 5:12. This thing called "Sin" entered as a great pollutant, or poison, which filled the human soul. From the very beginning, its presence in us changed every area of our existence. The first son of Adam killed his brother Abel because of envy ... and the worst was still yet to come.

The working of Sin in mankind became so horrible that *"...it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart."* Genesis 6:6. God sent the great flood and destroyed all except Noah and his family, but sin came through the flood in the hearts of those eight who were spared and began to increase even more. Sodom and Gomorrah gave themselves over to filth and perversion and were destroyed, but this thing called Sin continued to rage.

Somehow we had to control the rage and subdue the passions. Moses gave the Law, but this only caused Sin to abound. Romans 5:20. After fifteen hundred years of the Law's dominion, its verdict on those who were under it was *"there is none righteous, no, not one."* Romans 3:10, 19. Who then could deny that Sin was the master of all humanity? Although this was true and Sin's dominion had no exception, it was still an unnatural condition for humankind.

The apostle reminds us of David's question, saying *"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?"* Hebrews 2:6. Why would God consider the condition

of a sinful man or woman? Why not just destroy them and be done with it all? The simple answer is that he did not make us to be sinners. Sin never was our natural condition. God had made us to be a manifestation of his image and glory. Although that was lost through transgression, God's great desire was to restore his fallen creation back into being what he foreknew. Romans 8:29.

The scriptures are clear that Christ suffered for this purpose of *"...bringing many sons unto glory."* Hebrews 2:10. To do this he would have to accomplish the one thing that nothing, or no one else, could accomplish. He would have to *"take away the sin of the world!"* John 1:29. That unnatural thing would have to be purged from the heart and soul of man. Hebrews 1:3. This Jesus Christ did upon the cross at Calvary. There he *"sanctified the people with his own blood"* Hebrews 13:12 and *"cleansed them from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9. He suffered the death of the cross so that *"old man would be crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."* Romans 6:6. He then sent ministers everywhere with this simple gospel so that anyone who believed it would have *"their hearts purified by faith."* Acts 15:9. This fulfilled Jesus' promise he gave, saying, *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* John 8:32.

At Calvary, God restored to himself a people with *"clean hands and a pure heart."* Psalms 24. Through the work of the blood of Christ, we now come into God's presence *"...having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."* Hebrews 10:22. We are made free from sin. Romans 6:22. This is the natural condition of the children of God.