

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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The Christian's Boogie Monster

When I was a child, my three brothers and I shared a room in the attic that had been converted into a bedroom for us boys. There was no air conditioning, just a window on each end that we kept open hoping for a slight breeze to blow through. When older boys would spend the night they always ended up telling scary stories which usually include something called the boogie monster. This was a fictitious creature that almost always ended up eating the littlest of the boys. After the stories were finished, we younger boys would lay there in terror. There would be no trips to the restroom tonight. Our feet would not dare touch the floor. Surely the boogie monster was under the bed, in the closet, or most certainly waiting in the stairway for the foolish child who dared to attempt to make it downstairs to the toilet!

Over fifty years later, I realized the church has created its own version of the boogie monster. It seems to be the source of all our woes. It hides in the darkness; it lies in wait; it prepares to pounce on those who are foolish enough to let down their guard for even a moment. There is nothing you can do about it. Even the Son of God in all his glorious redeeming power fell short of slaying this great beast. It is the Christian's boogie monster. It is called OUR SINFUL NATURE!

It's not that I do not believe in a "sin" or "sinful" nature. The scripture is clear that through Adam's transgression we were made sinners. Romans 5:19. When "*sin entered the world*" Romans 5:12, it did not hide in a cave; it found itself a home in the human heart. This is why Jesus said those who sin are "*slaves to sin.*" John 8:34. The Apostle Paul describes the carnal man as being "*sold under sin*" Romans 7:14, and he also tells us that sin "*reigns*" over the lost individual. Romans 5:21. Still, the scripture never actually tells us there is something called "the sin nature."

Sin is actually a great pollutant that contaminated the hearts of fallen mankind. It is certainly a mighty power of darkness that works in every person who is without Christ. Its poison flows through us from birth, and left unchecked it completely debases and perverts the thoughts and actions of us all. Our parents, our laws, and our moral education, all do their best to keep this monster from having full control of our lives. We may subdue it, but we cannot eliminate it. It is woven into the very fabric of our being.

The power of sin in the human heart is such that many fail to see the greater power of redemption. Simple scriptures such as "*Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world*" John 1:29 become unbelievable to us. We say we believe his word, but we scoff at the thought that Christ actually takes sin away. But if Christ does not actually take our sin away, why did the Apostle John write, "*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not...*"? John 3:5-6. Is this "boogie monster" greater than our redeemer?

The simple truth is that whatever is in your heart is your nature. You are only immoral by nature if immorality is in your heart. You are only haughty by nature if pride is in your heart. Jesus did not say that a person is defiled by what is in their nature. He said the things that come from the heart defile a person. Mark 7:20-23. If your heart is purified from sin through faith in Jesus Christ, you do not have a sinful nature! Yet if sin is in your heart, it is evident that your sin has not been taken away by the blood of Christ. If that is the case, do not sit there and blame it on “the boogie monster.” Call upon the name of the Lord, believing that his blood was shed to sanctify you from all sin. Hebrews 13:12.