

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

August 14, 2020

A New Nature

Six hundred years before Christ appeared, God laid out the terms of our covenant of redemption. He describes this *“New Covenant,”* saying, *“I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”* Jeremiah 31:33. This prophecy is used twice in the book of Hebrews to reveal the New Covenant Jesus established when he shed his blood on the cross. It shows the work of Christ as changing the very heart and nature of a person, because God’s law is written in *“their hearts”* and *“their inward parts.”* This speaks of both a new heart and a new nature.

The Apostle Paul describes this new *“nature”* in his epistle to the Romans. He says, *“For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, **do by nature the things contained in the law**, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew **the work of the law written in their hearts**, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.”* Romans 2:14. Paul saw firsthand how this *“New Covenant”* of redemption was fulfilled in the gentile believers. The nature of these had been changed from sinful to righteous. Their righteous lifestyle did not proceed from a commandment, but from the new heart and nature Christ had imparted

Those who are born of God keep His commandments, but not because they have a list of commandments to keep. Paul said they *“do by nature the things contained in the Law.”* When Christ comes into a person, everything in their heart and nature changes. Their desires and longings are different. Sin, which they used to enjoy, is repulsive to them. As a newborn babe desires the mother’s milk, so these desire the things of Christ, and the Spirit of Christ which abides in them can be seen in their thoughts, words, and deeds. It is to such a person John writes: *“And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”* | John 3:24.

Some claim the redeemed have both a righteous nature and a sinful nature, and these are in a constant battle inside a person. This teaching is truly absurd. Many an alcoholic has been found to be both gentle and violent. When they are drunk they may become aggressive and violent. When they sober up they may become apologetic and meek. Yet such a person does not have two natures. The alcohol only removes inhibitions so the violence can be manifest in their actions. When circumstances cause someone who professes Christ to engage in sinful activity, it is not because they have two natures, but because the restraints of their true nature have been torn down for a season.

There is a scriptural passage which many use to promote the theory of two natures, but it actually says the opposite of what they suppose. The Apostle Paul makes a powerful and absolute statement, saying, *“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”* Galatians 5:16. To *“walk in the Spirit”* is to simply walk in this *“New*

Covenant” of the grace of God. Anyone who does so **“shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”** Paul gives the reason for this assurance in his next words. He says, *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”* Galatians 5:17. Many present this to mean *“the flesh”* and *“the Spirit”* are at war inside of a person, but nothing could be further from the truth. Paul is showing how opposite these are. If your walk is in the Spirit you are drawn to the things of God. If your walk is in the flesh you are drawn to the things of this world. Those who walk in the flesh, which speaks of serving God through carnal religious activity, have desires which are the opposite of those who walk in this New Covenant of Spirit and Life. This is why Paul says if you walk in the Spirit *“ye cannot do the things ye would”* (you cannot do the things you would do if you walked in the flesh.) Nothing in your heart or nature will allow you to do what those who walk in the flesh do.

If your original nature (old man) has not been replaced with the nature of Christ, your religion is merely *“commandment keeping”* and you are bound and condemned to *“walk in the flesh.”* Is it not time for you to believe this gospel and trust in Christ who shed his blood to *“take away our sin”*?

John 3:5.