

## The Old and the New Teachers Notes

When does one become a new person? 2 Cor. 5:17

- What makes 2 Cor. 5:17 realistic and understandable is verse 16
- **<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.**

**<sup>16</sup> We are careful not to judge people by what they seem to be, though we once judged Christ in that way. <sup>17</sup> Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new. <sup>18</sup> God has done it all! He sent Christ to make peace between himself and us, and he has given us the work of making peace between himself and others.**

### 2. What happens to the old nature? (character, personality, attitude or SPIRIT)

a. (Romans 8:5). God goes on to say, ". . . *the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be*"

- **Our SPIRIT (Will or Desire) but that OLD Flesh has yet to be done away with. look at verses 1-3 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. <sup>2</sup> Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup> because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.**

b. (Romans 8:7). The saved man accepts this truth and has **a different attitude** toward sin which comes from the new nature that a true believer receives when he becomes a child of God.

c. **This does not mean the saved person will not sin.** A Christian still has the old carnal nature which tempts him to sin. Paul expressed this truth saying "*I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. . . But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*" (Romans 7:21, 23)

**d. However, many who claim to be Christians have not war in their members; they just live their lives experiencing no conviction for their sins.**

e. The reason that the unsaved commits sin is because they only have a carnal relating to somebody's physical needs or appetites, especially as contrasted with spiritual or intellectual qualities. The carnal mind and the carnal mind can do nothing but sin. "*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*" (Romans 3:18) These verses picture the man whose life is dominated by sin as being lost. It reveals that the unsaved will live a life of sin. The Bible is saying that a person who professes to be saved, but whose **life remains unchanged** has not experienced the new birth

(John 3:3) and is not a Christian. <sup>3</sup> **Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.** <sup>2</sup> **He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”** <sup>3</sup> **Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.<sup>[a]</sup>”**

- a. [John 3:3](#) The Greek for *again* also means *from above*; also in verse 7. **You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’**

***“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)***

3. What does Ephesians 2:3 say about the sin nature (AKA-- The Flesh) -- **In the past you were dead because you sinned and fought against God.** <sup>2</sup> **You followed the ways of this world and obeyed the devil. He rules the world, and his spirit has power over everyone who doesn’t obey God.** <sup>3</sup> **Once we were also ruled by the selfish desires of our bodies and minds. We had made God angry, and we were going to be punished like everyone else.**

a. The flesh is defined here in scripture as THE SIN NATURE/PERSONALITY ref. Romans 7:18 as well -- **For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.**

#### **4. So it APPEARS as if the BELIEVER has TWO NATURES – TWO PERSONALITIES!!!**

- a. Romans 6: 18-22 – and now we have the capacity to fight and win over the old nature.

<sup>15</sup> **What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!** <sup>16</sup> **Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?** <sup>17</sup> **but thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.** <sup>18</sup> **You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.** <sup>19</sup> **I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.** <sup>20</sup> **When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.** <sup>21</sup> **What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!** <sup>22</sup> **But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.**

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### b. The Question becomes how do we fight and win over that OLD NATURE? **This is what SPIRITUALITY is all about!**

- **The Answer is: THE MIND (brain, intelligence, intellect, mentality)**

#### a. The MIND of an unsaved person is not described in very flattering terms in the Scriptures.

- i. Genesis 6:5 says that it is EVIL
- ii. Romans 1:28 It is reprobate (degenerate, rascal, no good and a trouble-maker)
- iii. It does not have the ability to please God
  1. Romans 3:11 & Ephesians 4: 17& 18 --does not even understand God
  2. Romans 8:6-7 It is at war with God
  3. It is defiled (literally dyed with another color (Titus 1:15) and corrupt (1 Timothy 6:5)
  4. Their minds have been tampered with by Satan himself (2 Cor. 4:4)

#### b. The Mind of The Believer or THE SAVED PERSON

- i. It has taken on a different outlook (Phil. 2:1-5) only because the believer has a NEW MIND or NEW CAPACITY to now think like Christ!
- ii. The believer has been RE-PROGRAMMED! (2 Cor. 10:1-5)

### c. The Question now becomes, how is it that we GET REPROGRAMMED?

#### a. It requires thinking- to arrive to conclusions (Eph. 5:17 and Rom. 14:1-5 CEV)

- i. Eph. 5:17 **Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**
- ii. Rom. 14:1-5 -- **Welcome all the Lord's followers, even those whose faith is weak. Don't criticize them for having beliefs that are different from yours. <sup>2</sup> Some think it is all right to eat anything, while those whose faith is weak will eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> But you should not criticize others for eating or for not eating. After all, God welcomes everyone. <sup>4</sup> What right do you have to criticize someone else's servants? Only their Lord can decide if they are doing right, and the Lord will make sure that they do right.**

<sup>5</sup> Some of the Lord's followers think one day is more important than another. Others think all days are the same. But each of you should make up your own mind. <sup>6</sup> Any followers who count one day more important than another day do it to honor their Lord. And any followers who eat meat give thanks to God, just like the ones who don't eat meat.

<sup>7</sup> Whether we live or die, it must be for God, rather than for ourselves. <sup>8</sup> Whether we live or die, it must be for the Lord. Alive or dead, we still belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> This is because Christ died and rose to life, so that he would be the Lord of the dead and of the living.

**The Holy Spirit** – John 16: 12-15 -- <sup>12</sup> I have much more to say to you, but right now it would be more than you could understand. <sup>13</sup> The Spirit shows what is true and will come and guide you into the full truth. The Spirit doesn't speak on his own. He will tell you only what he has heard from me, and he will let you know what is going to happen. <sup>14</sup> The Spirit will bring glory to me by taking my message and telling it to you. <sup>15</sup> Everything that the Father has is mine. That is why I have said that the Spirit takes my message and tells it to you.

- b.** By GIRDING (mentally preparation, surrounding with right environment) up our minds 1 Peter 1:13 -- **Be alert and think straight. Put all your hope in how kind God will be to you when Jesus Christ appears.**
  
- d.** How does the believer put into practice to have THE MIND OF CHRIST?
  - a.** 1 Peter 1: 13-16 -- understand that it is a continuing process. <sup>13</sup> **Be alert and think straight. Put all your hope in how kind God will be to you when Jesus Christ appears.** <sup>14</sup> Behave like obedient children. Don't let your lives be controlled by your desires, as they used to be. <sup>15</sup> Always live as God's holy people should, because God is the one who chose you, and he is holy. <sup>16</sup> That's why the Scriptures say, "I am the holy God, and you must be holy too."
  
  - b.** Philippians 4:8-9 – Positive Thinking <sup>8</sup> **Finally, my friends, keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper. Don't ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise.** <sup>9</sup> You know the teachings I gave you, and you know what you heard me say and saw me do. So follow my example. And God, who gives peace, will be with you.

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### e. The Question becomes how do we fight and win over that OLD NATURE?

- The Answer is: **THE MIND**
- The Answer is: **THE HEART**

a. The heart properly understood in scripture speaks to the seat or center of our intellectual life; therefore it is a synonym for THE MIND.

i. The heart has thought Hebrews 4:12 -- **For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner (the ability to see or notice something that is not very clear nor obvious) of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

ii. It is the place where we hide our knowledge of the word -- Psalms 119:11(KJV) **Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**

iii. It is the seat of our emotional life (loves – Deut 6:5), (rejoices- Psalms 104:15), (sorrows – Rom 9:2) and (desires – Ps 37:4)

iv. The heart can also will, (2 Cor. 9:7) make choices (Ex 7:23) turn aside (Ex 14:5) seek, (Deut 4:29) and it can be hardened (Heb 4:7)

### b. The Heart of the UNSAVED

- Hard and unrepentant (Rom 2:5)
- Blinded (Ephesians 4:18)
- Evil (Jer. 3:17)
- Without natural affection (Romans 1:31)

### c. The Heart of The BELIEVER

- Believes unto righteousness (Rom 10:10) for now God has opened that man's heart according to Acts 16:14, John 10:37,65 and 1:13
- It is where Christ abides according to Ephesians 3:17 and the Holy Spirit according 2 Cor. 1:22
- The heart is the center of obedience – Rom 6:17

1. We love God with our heart – Matt 22:37
  2. We love others with our heart – Romans 5:5
- d. The Believer must know that his heart can be damaged if he's careful so work to prevent that by;
- i. Daily exhortation of one another - Hebrews 3:13
  - ii. Digest the word of God – Hebrews 4:12
  - iii. A life of Prayer Hebrews 4:14-16