

# OLD NATURE vs. NEW NATURE

By  
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## Pt. 1

I want to look into some Scriptures together with you to show that there is TWO NATURES. And yet there are some that teach that we as Believers have two natures. But I want us to look into some Scriptures to see what the Word says: how the Word brings it out. I was thinking of this coming from **Romans 8**: We find that there is a Work of the Spirit to bring under subjection, to deprive, to mortify: which means to deaden the nature that is not Christ. And the whole purpose of being IN Christ, Born of The Spirit is for Christ to be manifested in the earth - in nature, in character, in conduct. You can go on: the manner of Life. It is for Christ to be manifested: the nature of Christ to come forth. And there are things I want us to look at in the light of the Scripture, allowing The Spirit of God to divide and to reveal and to open unto us The Truth. And I believe that the Scriptures themselves will speak to us by The Spirit making it a Living Reality in us.

Let's begin in **Romans 8:1**, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* Notice "who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" because there will be some Scriptures that we will look into that will show plainly

that the Spirit is entirely different than the flesh. The Spirit is to keep the flesh under control so that God can be glorified, even in our bodies. But here he says this in verse 1, and that also deals with the Law, but I'm not going to go into that much now. **Romans 8:2**, *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."* So we see here God sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. That was His Death on The Cross – dying as the Adamic man, as the old man of sin and death, condemnation judgment – all of that. You can find this in **Romans 5**. In the Adamic man, the first man Adam, condemnation and judgment. All of that was in that man. That man has a nature, and that nature is not the nature of God. But Christ comes and He dies as that man: to crucify and to put to death that nature.

And so we find here that God sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. Now Jesus did not sin. I want you to understand I am not saying that Jesus sinned. But God sent Him in the likeness of the man of sin. The first Adam was a figure of Him that was to come. The scripture tells us that in **Romans 5:14**. But now what did He do? He sent Him in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, to condemn sin in the flesh. **Romans 8:4**, *"That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* Now we see a dividing here: who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. So what is this righteousness of the Law? That the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled in us – in us as The Body of Christ, as Believers. **Verse 4**, *"... who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 5 For they*

*that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”* Actually you could bring in some Scriptures here about “*He that is of the earth is earthy.*” Over in John it tells us of that.

Let’s turn to **John 3** and let’s read how there is a distinct difference between the Spirit and the flesh: The Nature of God and the nature of man. John 3:31, “*He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.*” Above all – we know that’s speaks of Christ. Also **John 1:11**, “*He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*” **12** *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*” Notice here there is a distinct difference in this: one is born of the flesh, one is born by the will of man. The other is born of The Will of God, Born of The Spirit.

There’s a lot we can say here. You know I’m always talking about being Born of the Spirit. And one of the reasons for that is I’m a firm believer that this New Birth is absolutely a New Birth. It is to produce, it is too manifest, it is to declare an altogether other Life. A New Life! The life that man manifests as the Adamic man: he manifests a fallen nature, a nature that is separated from God. Well, when we are Born Again God by His Spirit begins to work in us to bring forth the Nature of Himself. He divides the Spirit and the flesh. So in John I wanted us to see He that is from above is above all. He that is of the earth is earthly.

**1 Corinthians 15:49** tells us, “*And as we have borne the*

*image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*” Where did we “bear the image of the earthy?” We had borne that in Adam, we bear that in the man of sin and death: condemnation and all of that. That’s where we had borne that. *“As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”* These Scriptures show there are two natures, but it does not show that we who are in Christ should walk in two natures. But that the Nature of God by the Spirit of God should be that which is manifested through us. The Spirit does the Work.

But going back to **Romans 8**, he said the righteousness of God is fulfilled in us who walk by the Spirit and not after the flesh. **Verse 5**, “*For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*” So we see here in the Scriptures that there is an absolute separation, a dividing of the old creation and the New Creation: the old nature and the New Nature. We’ll see it as we go along. So he goes on in **Verse 6**, “*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*” Now that’s not talking about you just being in a flesh body. It’s talking about the nature of the flesh or the nature of that fallen man that we are no longer to live in: that Law of the flesh to live in. Because you see the Scripture tells us that He freed us from The Law of Sin and Death and brought us into The Law of the Spirit of Life that is in Christ Jesus! So to look at the Scriptures we can see here how God brings a separation, a dividing. There are so many Scriptures that are back in the Old Testament when God dealt with Israel: how He divided the righteousness of God and the

unrighteousness of God. He divided that which was polluted and defiled from that which was pure and clean, and so forth. But I'm just going to go in the New Testament now.

So **Romans 8:7**, “ *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*” That means the carnal mind is not subject to The Law of the Righteousness of God. Verse 3 told us that: He came in the likeness of sinful flesh to condemn sin in the flesh. **8** “*So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.* **9** *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.* **10** *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.* **11** *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.* **12** *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.* **13** *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*” This word ‘mortified’ means to deprive, and actually speaks of to deprive that which is of the animal nature.

Why do we say that? If you will look in the Strong's Concordance at the word ‘flesh’, there is no difference in the Greek word of the flesh of man and the flesh of an animal. It is the beast nature that is in man that is not in Christ. And that nature was a fallen nature. That nature was the nature that was separate from God. It lived after the dictates of its own heart, its thoughts, its mind – everything. We all lived there, folks. Folks, we lived there. Haters of God! Of course none of us would say we hated God, but the Scripture tells

us we hated God. The scripture tells us that we were in the world.

Over in **1 John 2:16**, *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”* These things are not of The Father. So what God sets forth plainly in the Scriptures is a separation, a dividing. It’s not that we have two natures, but bringing us to see one nature and the other nature: one life and the other Life. The “life” that is really in death and the carnal mind cannot be subject to God. It “lives” in the realm of death. But where The Life that Christ is, brings us to Life. Back to **Romans 8:13**, *“ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”* The “fear” there is speaking of The Law. And that last verse of Scripture fits in with where I want to go next.

*“If we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”* And most places this word ‘together’ means AS ONE – in One, of that One that He is. So we see here in **Romans 8** how Paul laid this out. No condemnation to them that walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Condemnation only comes by the flesh: by walking by the flesh, not walking by the Spirit. Now let’s go to **1 Peter 4** and here we see that Peter comes along and he brings some of the things that

Paul brings. Notice the last verse we read in **Romans 8** said “if we suffer with Him.” In **1 Peter 4** Peter brings something out. In **Isaiah 43** Isaiah said this concerning The Body of Christ, those that are in Christ: “*you are my witnesses, that I am God.*” In other words, The Life of God, The Life of The Son is to be manifested in us – our conversation. See, a lot of times when we read this word “conversation” we think it’s just how we talk. Well it could be: it could tie into our speech. But it actually means our manner of Life: what manner of Life is there.

But notice in **1 Peter 4:1**, “*Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin.*” Suffered for us ... What did it say in Romans? If we suffer with Him we also shall be glorified together. “*Forasmuch then as Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind...*” What mind? Willing to allow the flesh to suffer. He suffered in the flesh: that suffering of Christ in The Cross was in the flesh. “A body hast Thou prepared Me.” The veil of His flesh. Why? He did that in order to bring us to this place that we could be free from the dictates of our own hearts, of our own flesh, and be controlled by The Spirit of God. That’s what The New Covenant is. The whole New Covenant is that which comes into agreement, comes into an understanding that **Christ is my Life**. Christ is the nature that needs to be revealed. **1 Peter 4:1**, “*Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.*” Now what it shows here is coming to Christ, resting in Christ, suffering in our flesh,

allowing our own flesh to suffer. What does it do? It causes us to cease from sin, that we no longer would live the rest of our time in the flesh.

And that would mean two things. Mainly I think it means we do not allow our own desires to dictate to us how to live. But we allow the Spirit: we come under the control of the Holy Spirit to guide, to lead and to direct us. And the other is that there are times: we know there are people in the world who are really not a leader themselves, so they are persuaded and they are pulled by others to fulfill the will of the flesh, and the will that someone else wants you to do. 'Come on and do this... do this... do that.' I have people every once in a while pull out their chewing tobacco when say 'here, have a chew.' Now I've got a choice: to chew it or not to chew it. Well I had a good experience when I was about 15 years old and maybe that's something that helped me. I was working with an old man at a dairy farm and he was chewing that tobacco. And I said give me a chew of that. I'll chew it if it kills me. Now I was married – and I can tell you. I didn't work and milk no cows for two weeks! And I never had another piece of tobacco in my mouth since!

Now I know that was a natural thing, but that may have helped me some. But what I'm talking about now is not so much me doing something, but allowing The Spirit of God: that Nature, that New Birth, that New Creation that we are to be manifested in the earth. So what does Peter say? As Christ suffered ... that we should no longer live in the flesh. That means to our own lust, our own desires, our own dictates, our own heart, our own will and not even to be controlled by somebody else. Now **Verse 3**, “ *For the time past ...*” I want us to notice this. I was reading not so long



ago some of these Scriptures and the Lord really just started to deal in my heart: how there has got to be a separation. There has got to be a difference in God's People and the world: than that Adam, that Adamic man. We were there, but here now he shows us in **verse 3** this very thing. *"For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries."* We can't overlook 'in time past'. In other words, we that are in Christ: we must realize that in time past there was that nature, that was how we lived, that was how we thought. That's the things we allowed and did. Why? Because we were doing that as a fallen nature that we lived out of: a nature deprived of the things of God.

*"For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles..."* And the word Gentiles means sinner or heathen. The Gentiles were heathens in the sight of the Jews. So for the time past of our life... And this word 'life' in the Strong's is #979. And that is talking about natural life, because #2222 in Strong's is another word – ZOE. Everywhere that word is mentioned, it is speaking of Christ Life: it is speaking at Spiritual Life. See, there's a difference between the natural life and Spiritual Life. In fact in **Matthew 6** Jesus said, "Take no thought for your life, THE LIFE ..." There's a difference, and you could say The Only Life. The Life is more than food, raiment – go on. It's more than that. The Life ... And He goes on, *"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added."* Now there's an order to this. I've often said I don't think you need to pray for an automobile or a house or clothes, or anything like that. If we truly allow The Kingdom of God to be established... all these things are added. They are the

benefits of being in Christ and letting Christ be King and having dominion in our lives: letting The Word of God find its rightful place in our hearts. I could say a lot here, but let's go on.

So 'our life'. And I just want to make a distinction that 'our life' NOW is a different Life. So **verse 3** is speaking of "time past". And our Life is not there now! Our Life is not this now. **Our Life is in Christ.** Our life wrought the will of the Gentiles because that was all that was in us then. The nature of Adam: that nature of that fallen man, our natural life. It all dictated to us whatever we did, whatever we got involved in. In time past that was the will that we walked in. Peter says here's how we were in "time past". **1 Peter 4:3**, *"For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:"* Those people that still live there think it's strange that we don't walk that way anymore. It shows here that there is a difference. There is a manifestation that is different between the world and the Believer. And here it shows that they will speak evil. Why? Because you are not out there partying with them!

Now we have some parties amongst God's People, but I'm telling you it's not all of this stuff. We have a good party, we have a good time in Christ but you see this here is in lasciviousness, excess of wine. People just go out and get stoned. And because you don't get stoned anymore they speak evil of you. It goes on: **4** *"...speaking evil of you: 5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead."* Glory to God! And the dead here are

those who are still dead in sin. The quickened are those that have come into that true Judgment of The Cross, The Judgment of Christ. **Verse 6**, “*For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.*” What are we saying? We see a nature, that’s true: but I want to bring it specifically as the Scripture does – FLESH and SPIRIT: what is flesh and what is Spirit. And **Romans 8** showed us that with the Spirit we do mortify the flesh. See, you can’t mortify that: you won’t deprive that animal nature. We didn’t do that. We lived any way we wanted, we did whatever we wanted, and felt good about it. The things we did – we felt good about it. We thought we were something! I have people tell me every once in a while because they’re drinking and running with women and doing business in that – ‘Boy, I’m living!’ And I have to look at them and say you haven’t lived yet! You don’t know what Life is all about.

And yes, the Scripture says there is pleasure in all of that, but how long does it last? Only for a season! Let’s see, this thing that is in Christ: it’s not just a seasonal thing. It is Eternal Life that God brings us into. So he goes on to say in **Verse 6**, “*...that they might be judged according to man in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.*” What he’s talking about there is that those that you do not run with: those that you are not allowing to control you and you are not allowing these things to be in your life, and you walk in the Spirit. Those men will judge you according to the flesh. Why? Because they don’t have the Spirit of God, they can’t judge you by the Spirit of God. They only judge you by the flesh: but you live according to God in the Spirit. You are walking pleasing unto God. And those that are still in that

realm will think there's something wrong with you. 'Why don't you want to have a good time like we are? Come on, let's get drunk tonight. Let's do this, let's do that.'

I've been there. I know what that's all about. But you see here we find something that's God working, and what God is bringing about by the Spirit. **1 Peter 4:7**, "*But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. 8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. 9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging. 10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*"

There's more you could go and read, but I want us to go now into **Ephesians 2**. Now what are we saying here? We're saying that The Nature of Christ is that which is to be manifested in you and I: brought forth, manifested in the world. Christ, The Light is to shine forth. When we were Gentiles, when we were sinners, when we were heathen, when we were separated from God we lived according to that nature. **Ephesians 2:1**, "*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*" We will notice here he deals with our Salvation from sin. How many realize that we were all sinners? How many realize that even the Scripture teaches that except we repent we all will likewise perish. The word 'repent' means a change of direction, a change of heart, a change of thoughts, a change of mind.

That's what true repentance is: it's a change of direction. The direction that we were in as the man of sin, as that Adamic man: then there is a New Life which is Christ. The Spirit of God comes within us to bring about that Salvation that He is. So here he deals with Salvation from sin.

*"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins."* Paul is dealing with the Believer. I'm dealing with you who have been quickened, who were dead. Where were you dead? You were dead in trespasses and in sins. See, every person that has not been truly Born Again of the Spirit of God is still in sin. Though Christ has come and He died as that man of sin. He took sin upon Himself, likened Himself to that man – all that He's done. That Work is done in Christ. But then we as individuals must come to accept and to believe in Him. The Scripture says we preach remission of sins in His Name. Repentance and remission of sins. So here Paul says to the Believer: you has He quickened, you've been made alive. We're going to read that we have been quickened, we have been raised from the dead. Now we are in death: we are in sin, **we are in death without Christ**. The whole world is that way. Paul said in **Romans 3:23**, *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* There were some Jews that tried to justify themselves by the Law, and Paul brought all mankind (if you'll read **Romans 3**): the Jew and the Gentile alike. But all had sinned and come short of the glory of God.

So **Ephesians 2:1**, *"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;"* This word 'quicken' means to be made afresh, and anew. *"Wherein in time past..."* But that should NOT be our walk NOW! As a New Creation that should not be our walk, that should not be our lifestyle.

2 *“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”* Who is the Prince of the power of the air? Satan. We were controlled by Satan. Satan eats on our flesh: he gets fat on that. One brother said in Genesis you see him as the serpent. You go over into Revelation and he’s become so fat he’s become a dragon! There’s a lot of truth there: he lives on the flesh. When God said to the serpent in the garden, he said, ‘Flesh shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.’ What was He talking about? He was talking about how Satan and the Prince of the power of the air would control man outside of Christ, outside of the Spirit of God. He would be controlled and dictated by that serpent. And that serpent would just eat flesh.

I said to someone recently, you’re driving down the road and you see these billboards and most of the time they have these pretty women showing off, puffing a cigarette, drinking a beer – whatever. Boy she’s pretty, but you know what? The devil never shows the end and the results of all that. He paints a pretty picture. Proverbs talks about the woman that will make her bed and try to draw the man to it. You get in Proverbs and you’ll find it. She makes the bed and dresses it with spices and says, ‘Come in. The man of the house is gone today. You come on by.’ You know a lot of that happens.

But you see that’s an old nature, that’s an old man. This is what the Lord is saying to us. Wherein NOW as we walk by the Spirit there is another Life: That Life really, truthfully is not you and I. That Life is really **CHRIST**. And I know it takes a lot to look into it and see that, but He is the only Life in

Spirit. **1 John 5:11**, “ *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*” So natural life passes by: it’s temporal. The God Life, The Christ Life is Eternal. Alright, let’s go on and see what the Scripture says. In **Ephesians 2:2**, “ *... the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.*” Disobedient unto the Lord. That same nature – we walked there one time, we lived there one time. That’s what he said: in time past we were no different than the world. **Verse 3**, “*Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*” Conversation means our manner of life in times past. So our manner of Life now should NOT be as time past, but in the present. And what was that conversation in time past? **Verse 3** says it was in the lusts of our flesh – for the flesh: that nature. You know people say this person ought not to do this or that. They can’t help doing what they do if they live by that nature. They live what they are!

So those that are in Christ living by The Spirit, then The Spirit walks, The Spirit has control. Let’s continue. **Verse 3** tells us we were no different than anybody else. “**But God ...**” Notice this. There’s a turnaround. Here’s another view. **Verse 4**: “*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.*” Where did He love us? Where does the Bible tell us God loves us? **John 3:16**, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*” Where did He give Him? In The Cross! The Love of God is The Cross! And you see The Love of God was in that Death, in that Cross: to bring us out of the realm

of sin and death and to bring us into the realm of Life. **Ephesians 2:4**, “ *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved).*” Notice this – when did He do it? When you were dead in sins, when the mind of your flesh and you fulfilled the desires of the flesh and the mind, and walked in that nature. You were there! He sent His Son to die, to be crucified. So what happened? **Verse 5**, “ *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)* **6** *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*” See we weren’t seated in heavenly places in that first realm.

Even in **John 17:15** Jesus said this, “ *I pray not that you take them out of the world, but that you will keep them from the evil of the world.*” Two worlds: the old world and the New World. Two heavens: the old heaven and the New Heaven. See, one speaks of the earthly, the natural. The other speaks of the Heavenly, the Spiritual. And so we see in the Scriptures how Paul and Peter show a distinct difference that God shows in His Word as The Body of Christ. Why? While we were in that condition Christ died for us. **Romans 5** says while we were dead without God. Let’s go there. **Verse 6**, “*For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*” See, what did He die for? He died for the ungodly that we would not continue to be ungodly: but that we would become the Righteousness of God through Jesus Christ. **Verse 7**, “*For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.*” Do you know what that is saying? If I look at you and I really thought you were good, I maybe would die for you.



There's an example in the book "Born Crucified" by L.E. Maxwell where the Brother was bringing out The Death of The Cross, and he used this as an example. A man was married and he had children and they were drafting him into some kind of service - Army or Navy or something. And this other guy didn't have a wife or children and he said I'll go in his place. He needs to be with his family. And he went in his place and when he went he got killed. And the writer uses this as an example. Then later on they tried to draft the man into service, and he said no, you can't draft me – I died!

In other words someone died in his place! That's exactly what Christ has done. We deserve death – and we died. But He died as us, that we might be justified. **Romans 4** talks about that: talking about how He was to Abraham. **Romans 4:24**, “ *But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;* **25** *Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*” How are we justified? We are justified by The Resurrection folks. We are justified because He is The Ever Living One! He took all the offenses, all this in: He took it all. My daughter-in-law recently was a blessing to me so much. When she came to the Lord she said, ‘Pops I know...’ And she had done drugs and drink, and all kinds of stuff! But she said ‘Pops, I used to do all that and God delivered me and set me free.’ I said you don't even have to have a conscience of what you did. Christ has forgiven you and He has wiped your slate totally clean and justified you through Him being raised from the dead. He took all of that in The Cross in His Death, and you don't have to cry, you don't have to moan, you don't have to do anything. Your past is as though you never lived there! That's the true justification: it is as though you never lived there. Oh it's beautiful! This New

Covenant, The Blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin. He has freed our conscience from all our failures, our shortcomings. Because when we couldn't be saved by our goodness and our works: we could only be saved by the goodness and the works that were in His Son! Oh Beloved, The Love of The Cross – how beautiful!

Back to **Romans 5:7**, “ *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.***8** *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***9** *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.***10** *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.***11** *And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*” And this word ‘atonement’ is the same as we have received the reconciliation: being reconciled to God. We were separated from God but now are reconciled. **2 Corinthians 5:19**, “ *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*” What is that? To minister Life to people: not death, but minister Life. But the Scriptures do show that there is a difference in the world and you and I. Yes, because we have accepted, we believe what God has done.

Now let's go back to **Ephesians 2:5**, “ *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)* **6** *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*” But God is rich in His Mercy! Oh folks, let's get ahold of the

Nature of God and see that the Nature of God is Merciful, Long-suffering, Patience, Meekness, Temperance, Kindness – you can go on and on. Love: God is Love! Does He love sin? No. He came and died as the sinner to do away with sin, to condemn sin in the flesh, that we might have the Righteousness of the Law through Christ be established in us. Alright then he goes on, **Ephesians 2:7**, “*That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*” How? Through Christ Jesus. See, everything is through Christ Jesus. We don’t do this on our own: we can’t do it on our own! How can we set ourselves free? We can’t! We are bound: mankind is bound.

**Ephesians 2:8**, “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*” See man can boast. ‘Well I used to do this, but I don’t do that anymore.’ The whole thing is the Nature, The Spirit of Christ that works that, and we have nothing to boast upon except God. The Apostle said if I boast, my boast will be in the Lord! It’s seeing what God has done. He’s already paid the penalty that mankind does not have to live in sin and death. Man does not have to be controlled by the dictates of his own mind, his own lust, his own desire. But he can be controlled by the Spirit of God! Look at this in **verse 10**, “*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*” What is he saying? We are the People of God. We just should walk in that: walk in **Christ**, walk in **The Spirit**.

Now let’s go to **Ephesians 4**. Much could be said here but we’re going to begin in **verse 17**. This verse speaks of a

New Way of thinking— a New Way. Everything in Christ is NEW! Do you know that you and I know nothing about Christ? All we knew was the nature of the Adamic man that was in us. That's all we knew. All we knew was what the Prince of the power of the air would dictate to us. We didn't know God's Ways, we didn't know the Mind of God, we didn't have the Mind of God. But being Born Again, Born of the Spirit... now our thinking, our mind becomes not 'our' mind, but becomes The Mind of Christ: the same Mind that was in Him is in us. **Philippians 2** says, “ *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*” Now what is this? Paul is writing these epistles to the Church, to The Body of Christ and Paul is showing flesh and Spirit. **Ephesians 4:17**, “*This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind.*” Remember I said the word 'Gentiles' is sinners or heathen. It's actually even in the Greek. “That we walk not as other sinners. “ *that ye...18 Having the understanding darkened ...*” They don't have the **understanding** of Light and Righteousness. They have an understanding that is darkened: of the darkness.

**Verse 18**, “ *... being alienated ...*” What does this word 'alienated' mean? From The Life of God (#2222). That's Spiritual Life: alienated from That Life. “**18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.**” So our hearts were blinded. We didn't have a comprehension, understanding, a reasoning of God. One of the Scriptures in the Old Testament says, “*Oh let us come and go up into the mountain of the Lord. There He will show us His ways, and He will teach us His paths.*” We don't know it! Isaiah said, “ *As the heavens are above*

*the earth, so are My thoughts above yours.” Until we are truly Born Again of the Spirit of God we don’t have a change of mind, a change of thinking, a change of direction. But here we find Paul brings this out. **Verse 19**, “Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.” Now look at this: they lived by their feelings, the dictates of their hearts, their desires, the lusts of their own flesh. **Verses 20**, “But ye have not so learned Christ; **21** If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: **22** That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; **23** And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; **24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. **25** Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. **26** Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: **27** Neither give place to the devil. **28** Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” Even our working, even our labor: it’s not just for us. It’s to help others. There’s a lot here.*

But I want us to go to **1 Peter 2** again. I’m going to just begin in **verse 6**, speaking back in the Old Testament. “Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. **7** Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, **8** And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which

*stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” We are a peculiar People! We are peculiar to the world, folks. The world loves its own. I was just reading in John where Jesus said “My Kingdom is not of this world. He said the world hated Me so the world will hate you.” You are not of the world! And so 1 Peter 2:10, “ Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. 11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.” Remember Gentiles mean sinners. Why? That they may see The Life of God, that they may hear The Voice of God. What is our ‘good works’? It’s Christ! It’s Christ – a Work of the Spirit. It’s what God is working in you and I. Paul said in **Romans 7** that in my flesh there dwelleth no good thing. They looked at Jesus and said you are a good man. He said none is good but **God**.*

Let’s close in **Galatians 5**. This deals with the liberty: that we have been made free from the Law, the bondage. Yet it also deals with those of us who have been made free from the bondage of the self dictates of the Adamic man. There’s a lot there we could look into. Look at **verse 14**, “*For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.*”

See, God doesn't want us to be that kind of people – fighting and devouring one another: consuming one another, not even with our words. **16** *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 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.”* See the contrast here? One is contrary to the other. You can't do the things that you would in the flesh. **18** *“But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”*

Do we hear that? Against the Fruit of the Spirit there is no Law: there is no limitations in all of these. **24** *“And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”* And in closing let's prayerfully consider **verse 25**, *“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”* I truly believe if we are Born Again the Spirit of God comes in us. I have no doubt that the day I received Christ and repented of my sins I received His Spirit. And now because I now Live by and in the Spirit I no longer have to walk in the flesh. **Now let us also walk in the Spirit!**