

DIRECTION 5 **(THE NECESSITY OF A NEW NATURE)**

SUMMARY: You cannot live a holy life, no matter how hard you try, if you still have your old nature. In order to live a holy life, you have to receive, by faith, a new heart and a new nature, through your union and fellowship with Christ. p. 63

INTRODUCTION:

People live in two states/conditions before God:

- A. BLESSED/NEW/SPIRITUAL STATE, pp. 63-64
 - 1. *A BLESSED STATE* BECAUSE YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE NEW BIRTH AND ARE A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST THROUGH FAITH. YOU HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED, AND YOU HAVE BEEN CREDITED WITH CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS. YOU HAVE ALSO RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, WHO LIVES IN YOU. THROUGH HIM, YOU WILL LIVE IN HOLINESS IN THIS LIFE, AND IN GLORY FOREVER ATER. P. 63
 - 2. *A NEW STATE* BECAUSE YOU CAN ONLY ENTER INTO THROUGH THE NEW BIRTH IN CHRIST. PP. 63-64
 - 3. *A SPIRITUAL STATE* BECAUSE YOU RECEIVED FROM CHRIST THE SPIRIT WHO MAKES YOU ALIVE. P. 64
- B. NATURAL STATE, p. 63

A COMMON MISTAKE NATURAL MEN MAKE: "They try to reform their lives and become better people- and even try to keep the law of God- without realizing that their nature must be changed." p. 64

PROPOSITION: NINE BIBLICAL TRUTHS TO CONVINC ONE THAT HOLINESS CAN BE ATTAINED ONLY BY HAVING A NEW NATURE IN CHRIST: PP. 65-75

LESSON:

- I. THE BIBLE CLEARLY TEACHES THAT THE ONLY WAY ONE CAN BE EMPOWERED TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE IS THROUGH UNION AND FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST BY FAITH. p. 65 (**NOTE:** This is the point of this book!)
- II. THE BIBLE CLEARLY TELLS WHY ONE CANNOT LIVE A HOLY LIFE AS LONG AS ONE IS STILL IN THEIR NATURAL STATE. THE REASON IS ONE MUST BE BORN AGAIN (JOHN 3:3-5). p. 65

III. PAUL SPEAKS OF YOUR OLD NATURE AS "THE FLESH." p. 66

A. "BEING IN THE FLESH" IS NOT: P. 66

1. SINNING FROM TIME TO TIME
2. ADDICTED TO PLEASING YOUR PHYSICAL APPETITE
3. HAVING SOME BAD HABITS

B. "BEING IN THE FLESH" IS: P. 66

TO BE IN THE FLESH IS TO BE IN A NATURAL STATE

THE CAUSE OF SINFULNESS JUST AS BEING IN THE SPIRIT IS THE CAUSE OF HOLINESS

SIN IS THE PROPERTY OF THE FLESH AND LIVES IN THE FLESH, ROM. 7:18

THE BIBLE POSITIVELY ASSERTS THAT THOSE THAT ARE IN THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE GOD (ROM. 8:8).

C. WHAT IS THE FLESH?, P. 66

"THE NATURE OF MAN AS IT IS CORRUPTED BY THE FALL OF ADAM."

D. "IN THE FLESH" VS. "IN THE SPIRIT"

BEING "IN THE FLESH" IS THE CAUSE OF SINFULNESS VS. "BEING IN THE SPIRIT" IS THE CAUSE OF HOLINESS

THE FLESH LUSTS AGAINST THE SPIRIT, GAL. 5:17

TO BE "IN THE FLESH" IS TO BE IN A NATURAL STATE VS. TO BE "IN THE SPIRIT" IS TO BE IN A NEW STATE, BY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST LIVING IN YOU, ROM. 8:9

THE CORRUPT NATURE IS CALLED THE FLESH, BECAUSE IT IS WHAT YOU RECEIVE WHEN YOU ARE BORN AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RACE DESCENDED FROM ADAM. VS. THE NEW NATURE IS CALLED SPIRIT, BECAUSE YOU RECEIVE GOD'S SPIRIT WHEN YOU ARE BORN AGAIN, AND BORN INTO GOD'S KINGDOM, JOHN 3:6.

IV. PAUL TEACHES THAT ONE MUST PUT OFF THE OLD MAN AND PUT ON THE NEW MAN BEFORE HE CAN BE FREED FROM THE PRACTICE OF SIN AND LIVE A NEW LIFE. pp. 66-67

- A. HOW TO PUT OFF THE "OLD MAN" AND PUT ON THE "NEW MAN":
"PUTTING OFF THE OLD MAN, AND PUTTING ON THE NEW MAN, IS THE SAME AS NOT LIVING BY THE FLESH, BUT BY THE SPIRIT. YOU PUT OFF YOUR NATURAL STATE, AND PUT ON YOUR NEW STATE, BY UNION AND FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST." P. 66
 - B. THE "OLD MAN" IS: "THE NATURAL STATE OF MAN, WHERE HE HAS NO RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST WHATSOEVER. IT IS CALLED THE OLD MAN, BECAUSE BELIEVERS ARE BROUGHT INTO A NEW STATE THROUGH THE NEW BIRTH IN CHRIST." P. 66
- V. FOUR REASONS WHY YOUR OLD NATURE IS TOTALLY UNABLE TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE. pp. 67-68
- 4 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FLESH: pp. 67-68
- A. THE GUILT OF SIN BELONGS TO OUR NATURAL STATE, P. 67
 - B. AN EVIL CONSCIENCE, P. 67
 - C. AN EVIL INCLINATION, P. 67-68
 - D. SUBJECTION TO THE POWER OF THE DEVIL, P. 68
- VI. NO ONE HAS ANY REASON TO THINK THAT CHRIST WILL HELP HIM OR HER TO WILL OR DO ANYTHING THAT IS PLEASING TO HIM AS LONG AS ONE REMAINS IN HIS OR HER OLD NATURE (CF., ROM. 8:7-8). P. 68
- VII. UNBELIEVERS HAVE NO EXCUSE FOR THEIR LIFE OF SIN, ECCLES. 7:29. pp. 69-70
- VIII. BASED ON ALL THAT HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THE NATURAL MAN, IT IS NOT USELESS (AS SOME MAY AND DO CONCLUDE) TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO NON-CHRISTIANS WHO ARE LOST IN SIN. P. 71-72
- IX. EVEN THE MOST MORAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND LIVES OF NON-BELIEVERS ARE NOT ENOUGH TO EARN THEIR ACCEPTANCE WITH GOD, E.G., 1 TIM. 1:15; PHILIP. 3:6-8). pp. 72-75

CONCLUSION:

"HERE IS THE ESSENCE OF WHAT I HAVE BEEN SAYING IN THIS CHAPTER. YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY OBEY GOD IF YOU STILL HAVE YOUR OLD NATURE. YOUR OLD, CORRUPT NATURE HAS NO POWER TO PLEASE GOD. IF YOU WANT TO OBEY GOD, YOU MUST RECEIVE A NEW HEART AND A NEW NATURE FROM CHRIST. WHEN YOU RECEIVE THIS NEW NATURE, YOU WILL THEN BE WILLING AND ABLE TO OBEY GOD. APART FROM UNION WITH CHRIST, YOU CAN DO NOTHING!" P. 75

Permissions: Permission is happily granted to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do not revise the wording in any way and do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction. For web posting, a link to this document on Paramount's website is preferred. Any exceptions to the above must be approved by John Fonville.

Please include the following statement on any distributed copy: By John Fonville. © Paramount Church Website:
www.paramountchurch.net