

## **Do I really believe the truth that humanly speaking I am not a good person?**

God's word tells us we were born with an evil nature and we can't change it – did God lie?

Jer 13:23 (God asks each of us) **Can the Ethiopian change the color of his skin? or a leopard take away his spots?** (the answer to both questions is No)  
**Nor can you who are so used to doing evil now start being good.** TLB

Here God tells us not only that we are naturally evil but that we can't change our nature:

Eph 2:2-3 **You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God** (no matter how polite we may be)  
**All of us** (you and me included) **used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature. We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God's anger just like everyone else.** NLT

This is God's description of how each one of us is naturally, apart from Christ, meaning this is how the nature we inherited from our parents looks – none of us are excluded.

Many unwisely compare themselves to others and falsely conclude that they are good:

There are many, including many Christians, who think that because they see themselves as less bad than others, that therefore on a comparison basis, they must be good people. Nowhere in scripture is being less bad, in our own eyes, than others, defined as being good. Instead scripture gives us this plain and irreversible truth – it's about you and me:

Rom 3:10 **As the Scriptures say, "No one is good — not even one".** NLT

Mark 10:18 (Jesus) **Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One that is God.**

We need to change our thinking about ourselves and conform it to the truth that in our human nature we are unchangeably evil. Here are some of our natural characteristics:

Men: are more obviously evil and tend to be: easily made angry, loud, egotistical, boastful, impatient, crude, rude, obnoxious, insensitive, addictive, violent and cruel.

Ladies: are more secretly but equally evil and tend to be: easily offended, unforgiving, bitter, vengeful, manipulative, jealous, gossipers, fearful, self-pitying – often falsely justifying themselves as good by comparing themselves to more outwardly evil men.

2 Cor 10:12 **...However, when they measure themselves with themselves and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding and behave unwisely.** AMP

Someone may say OK this is true but I've been born again as a Christian, now I'm good

That statement is not necessarily true. To be born again means that you have the beginning of a new and good nature from God. But you still have your old evil human nature. Whether you are good or not depends on which nature you currently live in:

Here are the words of an immature Christian still ruled by evil, written to other Christians:

Rom 7:18 **I know that good does not live in me — that is, in my human nature.**  
TEV **For even though the desire to do good is in me, I am not able to do it.**

If we do not grow spiritually beyond merely being born again our evil human nature will still dominate our will, despite our having a new good nature, with terrible consequences:

Rom 8:13 **For if you live according to your human nature, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you put to death your sinful actions, you will live.**

As Christians we will continue to be evil unless we learn how to live in our new nature:

How can we stop living under the dreadful power of our evil human nature, which results in eternal death? Everything depends on whether, out of a sincere love for God who first loved us when we were by nature evil and unlovable, we have surrendered our will to God. So that He may now baptize us with and keep our own spirit's filled with His Holy Spirit. In this way our will stays under God's control and not under the control of our evil nature:

Rom 8:9 **But you do not live as your human nature tells you to; instead, you live as the Spirit tells you to — if, in fact, God's Spirit lives in you.**  
TEV **Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him.**

If you ask how can I have been born again and not belong to Christ? Easily, if I am not currently under the control of the Spirit of Christ in everything I do, because I am back under the control of my evil human nature, then right now I do not belong to Christ. I belong again to myself and Jesus is not my Lord, I'm not living as a child of God, for only:

Rom 8:14 **Those who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons,** (because) TEV

Acts 5:32 **...The Holy Spirit who is God's gift to those who (are willing to) obey Him.**

Heb 5:9 TLB...**Jesus became the giver of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him.**

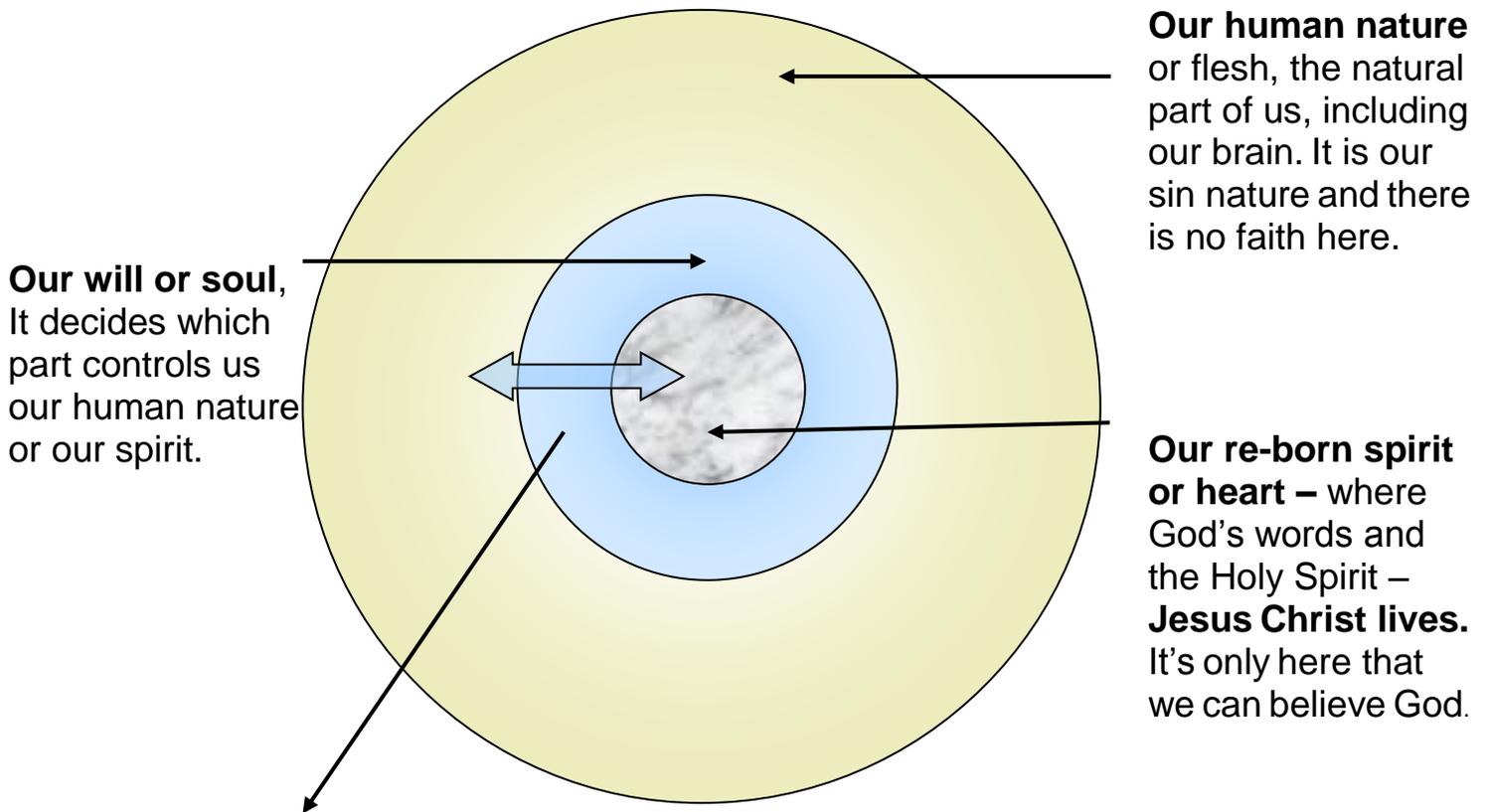
It's only when I'm being led by and under the control of the Holy Spirit that I'm living in my new nature, I'm now living in Christ and I'm no longer controlled by my evil human nature:

Rom 8:1 **There is now no damnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh (human nature) but according to the Spirit.**  
NKJV

Please do not make light of these truths – for our salvation may hang in the balance here.

# The 3 fundamental parts of every Christian

Two opposing natures, one from Adam one from Christ, a will to choose which controls:



**Our will chooses** which of our two opposing natures governs our decisions and choices. Because that is the nature where we want to, where we will to, where we choose to, live.

When our will is yielded to the natural part of us, controlled by our physical senses and the reasoning of our intellect, we are what the Bible calls "**carnal**" – we are carnal Christians. When our will is ruled by our spirit with our spirit yielded to the Holy Spirit, we are what the Bible calls "**spiritual**". Every Christian is either one or the other, carnal or spiritual.

1 Cor 3:1 **And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to infants in the Christian life.** NKJV/NLT

Gal 5:16 **What I say is this: let the Spirit direct your lives, and you will not satisfy the desires of the human nature.**

17 **For what our human nature wants is opposed to what the Spirit wants, and what the Spirit wants is opposed to what our human nature wants. These two are enemies, and this means that you cannot do what you want to do.**

18 **If the Spirit leads you, then you are not subject to the Law.** TEV