

Living in our new nature – in Christ – not in our human nature

2 Cor 5:17-18 **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God..**

When we first received from God the forgiveness of our sins, by believing God's word, we were born again. That is God created in us a new heart, a new spirit, or a new nature. And just as the above scripture says that nature is of God, it is the nature of Christ.

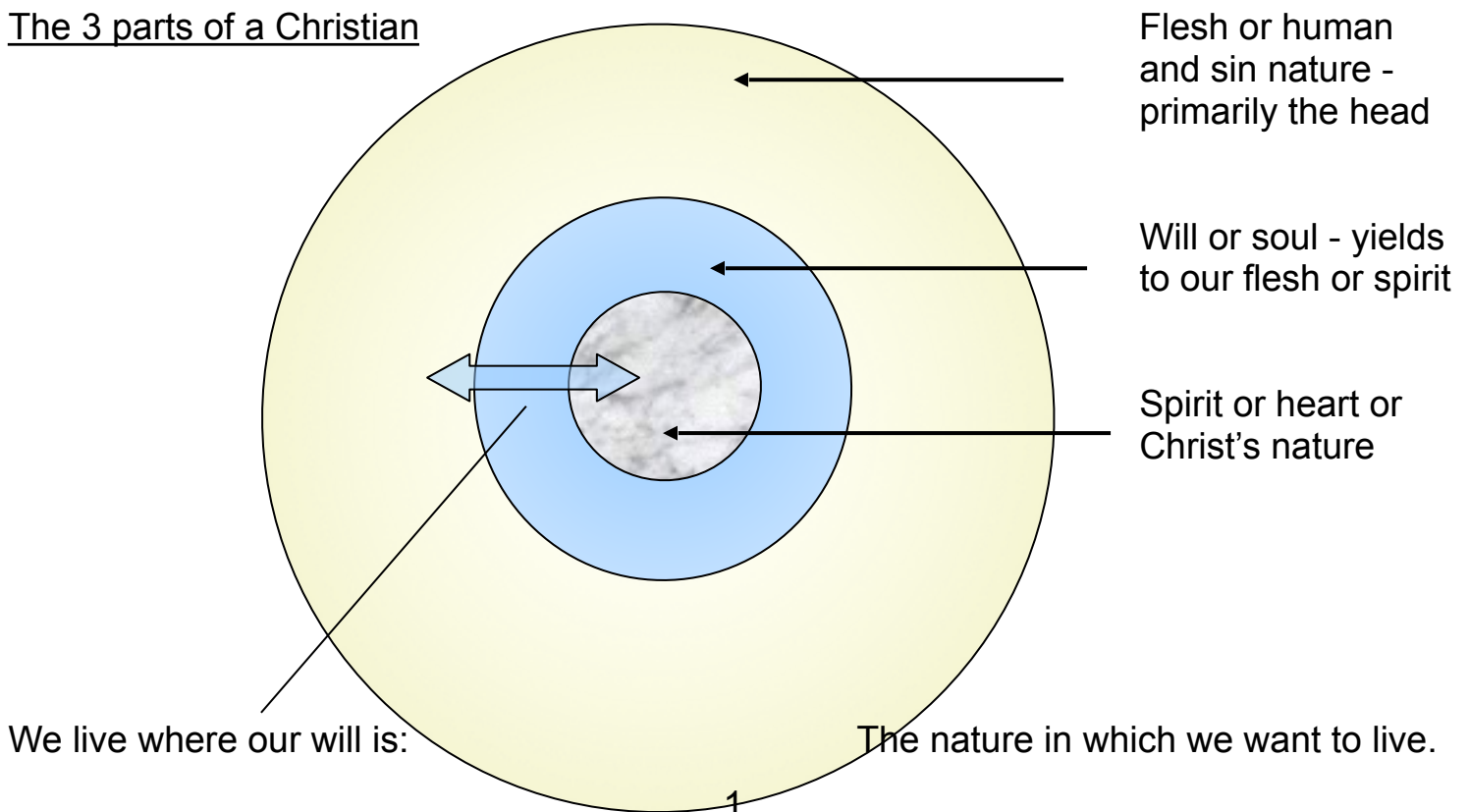
Ezek 36:26 **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you....**

Even though we were born again in our spirits and became Christians, we still retained our old nature, our human nature or flesh. It is in this human nature that includes our brains, the part of us that was not born again and which will cease to exist when we die, it is here that nothing good but only sin resides. Thus it is our sin nature:

Rom 7:17-18 **...It is ...sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; (but not in my new spirit which came from God)**

And so every Christian has two natures, a Christ nature – the heart or spirit, and a sin nature – the flesh or fallen human nature, the most dominant part of which is the head with its carnal mind. At any given moment what determines which of these two totally different natures a Christian is living in is his will or soul. In other words we make the choice each moment as to which nature, sin or Christ, rules our behavior:

The 3 parts of a Christian



Living in the new creation or living in the old one – which would I prefer?

2 Cor 5:17-18 **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God.**

When I choose to live “in Christ” – the above scripture uses the word “if” which means that it is our choice – then I am living in my new creation, my new nature, my new spirit within me. While I remain there all the old sin and self dominated things of my life have gone, everything is new and good since everything is of God – when I’m in Christ, when my will is yielded to my spirit.

When I choose not to live “in Christ” but out of Christ I am living in my old creation, my human nature. Here the old sin, self and pride dominated things of my life continue just as they did before I was saved, nothing in this part of me is new and nothing is of God. Obviously when I live in my sin nature it is impossible for me to know or do God’s will:

Rom 8:8 **So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

Where do we choose to live, new creation or old? We are making that choice right now.

What actually controls whether I’m in my flesh or my spirit – my response to God’s Spirit:

Rom 8:9 (AMP) **But you are not living the life of the flesh, you are living the life of the Spirit, if the Holy Spirit of God really dwells within you and directs and controls you. But if anyone does not possess the Holy Spirit of Christ, he is none of His he does not belong to Christ... at least for now since he has chosen to belong to his flesh.**

When a Christian chooses to yield his will, his soul, permanently to God that is when Christ becomes the Lord of his life. The Holy Spirit of Christ now fills and becomes joined to that Christians spirit and takes over the growth, direction, ministry and safekeeping of that Christians life. While this Christian remains fully submitted to the Holy Spirit in all things, his spirit is actually joined to and one with Christ – he is “in Christ”. And since Christ died to His flesh on the cross, this Christian, being now one with Christ, is likewise crucified to his flesh and therefore not subject to its appetites and demands:

1 Cor 6:17 **But the person who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him.**

Gal 5:24 **And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh (the godless human nature) with its passions and appetites and desires. AMP**

When my will is yielded to my flesh, my old sin nature, I am not a very nice person. I may cover it up with politeness and outward refinements but this nature remains evil and is incapable of being reformed – the only remedy is that by choosing, by my voluntary submission to the Holy Spirit, to live “in Christ” I become dead to my flesh.

Rom 8:6 **Now the mind of the flesh which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit is death [death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter]. But the mind of the Holy Spirit is life and soul peace...** AMP

When my will is yielded to my heart or spirit, now indwelt by the Spirit of God and some of the word of God, I am living in that part of me where Christ's nature resides. I cannot help but be now a genuinely nicer person. If I remain in this place the Holy Spirit will continue to make alive and impart to my heart more of God's words (Christ's nature) thereby enlarging my heart and thus increasing the likelihood that my flesh will never regain control of my will. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. 2 Cor 3:17 ESV

My flesh has no faith, it can't pray, worship, understand the things of God or stop sinning

Eph 6:18 **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..**

John 4:24 **God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit...**

1 Cor 2:14 **But the natural man (human nature) does not receive the things of the Spirit of God ... nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

Gal 5:19-23 **Now the works of the flesh are ...adultery... hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, heresies (false doctrines) envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like...But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control...**

Will I be found "in Christ" and belonging to Him at His coming? Am I Christ's right now?

1 Cor 15:23 **...Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming**

Three Questions, my answers to which may determine if I am "in Christ" right now:

1. Have I received, by faith, God's ongoing forgiveness for any and all sins that I have committed, having not neglected to do so through ignorance, laziness, unbelief, pride or deception. Am I right with God, and Is my conscience clean?
2. Have I forgiven, by faith and from my heart, everyone of everything who I think may have wronged me, having not neglected to do so through ignorance, laziness, unbelief, pride or deception? Do I have the peace of God towards all others and am I willing, as God leads me, to pray for them?
3. Am I truly surrendered to and do I want only God's will in every area of my life, without exception? By faith and the power of God's Spirit will I obey what He tells me?

If I can answer "Yes" to these three questions then I am currently "in Christ". My life is hidden with Christ "in God" and I am an established Christian, walking in the light and led by God's Spirit. I am safe, and at home in my Father's house, I am bearing fruit into the lives of others. I am living in the kingdom of heaven, while on earth and Jesus is my Lord.

Eph 5:18 **Don't be drunk with wine** (or anything else of the flesh), **because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you.** NLT

Which nature are you and I choosing to live in, our human nature or Christ's love nature?