

CHRISTIANS HAVE TWO NATURES

2 Corinthians 4:16

Introduction: It's difficult enough to try to get along without any "outside" interference, but when there 's another "inside" interference, influence, "person," it can become very confusing and difficult. Only Christians have the two "natures" however as they were given a new one upon their belief in Jesus Christ. So within the Christian there are battles very frequently. The original "nature" automatically "runs" things without the Christian even having to think but the new "nature" steps in and tries to take over and there is conflict for both want to "run" the Christian's life. Therefore the Christian has to "step in" and decide which "nature" he/she is going to listen to.

I. THE ORIGINAL NATURE (NATURAL "MAN")

1. Characteristics of the Original Nature (human being).

- The original nature is the fleshly, carnal, unsaved person. It has the "nature" of Adam which everyone posses at birth. Our parents have the same original nature and every person since Adam have been born with the Original Nature, Natural "man." In the eyes of God everyone has been born "dead in trespasses and sins." *Ephesians 2:1*
- Everyone is thoroughly corrupt before God for everyone produces the works of the flesh. *Galatians 5:19-21*
- Everyone is "by nature, the children of wrath." *Ephesians 2:3*

2. The Bible has given names to the Original Nature (natural man).

- The Flesh - "*That which is born of the flesh is flesh.*" (*John 3:6*) - Jesus does not mean the body of tissue and such, it means the old carnal nature. (*Romans 8:8*)
- The Natural mind. "*Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither, indeed can be.*" (*Romans 8:7*)
- The Natural man. The "natural" man cannot grasp or understand the truths of God. The old nature, the unsaved mind, cannot grasp Godly things. (*1 Corinthians 2:14*)
- The Sensual man. The original, old nature, thrives on the desires of the flesh, which can never be completely satisfied. (*Jude 19; James 3:15; Ephesians 2:3*)
- The Blindness of heart. "*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.*" (*Ephesians 4:18*)
 - "Out of the heart of men" - people's nature.
 - "Evil thoughts" - people's minds
 - "Adulteries, fornications, murders" - people's actions (*Mark 7:21-22*)
- The Old man. (*Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:9*)
- The Outward man. "*Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*" (*2 Corinthians 4:16*)
- Sinners. "*There is none righteous, no not one.*" (*Romans 3:10, 23*)

3. The End Result of the Original, Natural man.

- Spiritual death is the end result of anyone who does not accept Jesus Christ as Lord. "*For to be carnally minded is death.*" (*Romans 8:6; 5:12*)

- Spiritual death is explained by Paul in *2 Thessalonians 1:7-9*.

II. THE SPIRITUAL NATURE (PERSON)

1. The Characteristics of the Spiritual person.

- The new birth imparts a new nature. *"That which is born of the Spirit is Spirit" (John 3:6)*
- With the new nature, the believer learns *"Not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)*
- The new birth means that Jesus Christ is in the heart of all who accept Him. *(Colossians 1:27)*
- The produce of a Christian life is called "fruit of the Spirit." Christian character is produced by the Holy Spirit and not by one's self effort. *(Galatians 5:22-25)*
- The Christian is "clean" through the Word and abides, rests, in Jesus Christ. *(John 15:3-4)*
- The believer is a new creation. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)*
- The "divine" nature is given to the believer. *(2 Peter 1:3-4)*

2. Scriptural Names Given the Spiritual Nature, person.

- Christian - The word used to indicate that a person belongs to Jesus Christ, thus "Christ-ian." *(Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16)*
- The New man - *(Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10)*
- The Inward man - *(2 Corinthians 4:16)*
- Saints - *(Ephesians 2:19; Romans 8:27)*
- Priests - *(1 Peter 2:5-9; Revelation 1:6; 5:10)*
- Ambassadors.
- Children of God - *(Romans 8:16-21)*
- Heirs of God, Joint heirs with Christ - *(Romans 8:17)*
- The Temple of God - *(1 Corinthians 3:16-17)*

3. The End Result of the Spiritual person.

- The new spiritual person, the born again person looks forward to the coming of the Lord. He/she will be among all the redeemed, called the Church, the bride of Christ and shall be called to meet Christ *"in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord."* *(John 3:29; Ephesians 5:23-29; 2 Thessalonians 4:13-18)*
- Those who have died (physically) in Christ shall be raised first, resurrected to be with Jesus and all of the redeemed. *(1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:23, 51-53)*
- Victory in Jesus Christ is the end result of the believer. *(1 Corinthians 15:57).*

CONCLUSION:

1. Every believer in Jesus (Christians) have two natures - the one born with and the one given when he/she believed in Jesus Christ.
2. There is a constant battle between these two natures in the life of the Christian.
3. When a Christian does yield to the original nature and sin occurs, confessions must be made to God through Jesus Christ in order to be forgiven and cleansed.
4. The Holy Spirit indwells the Christian to help the Christian live as Jesus wants him/her to live.