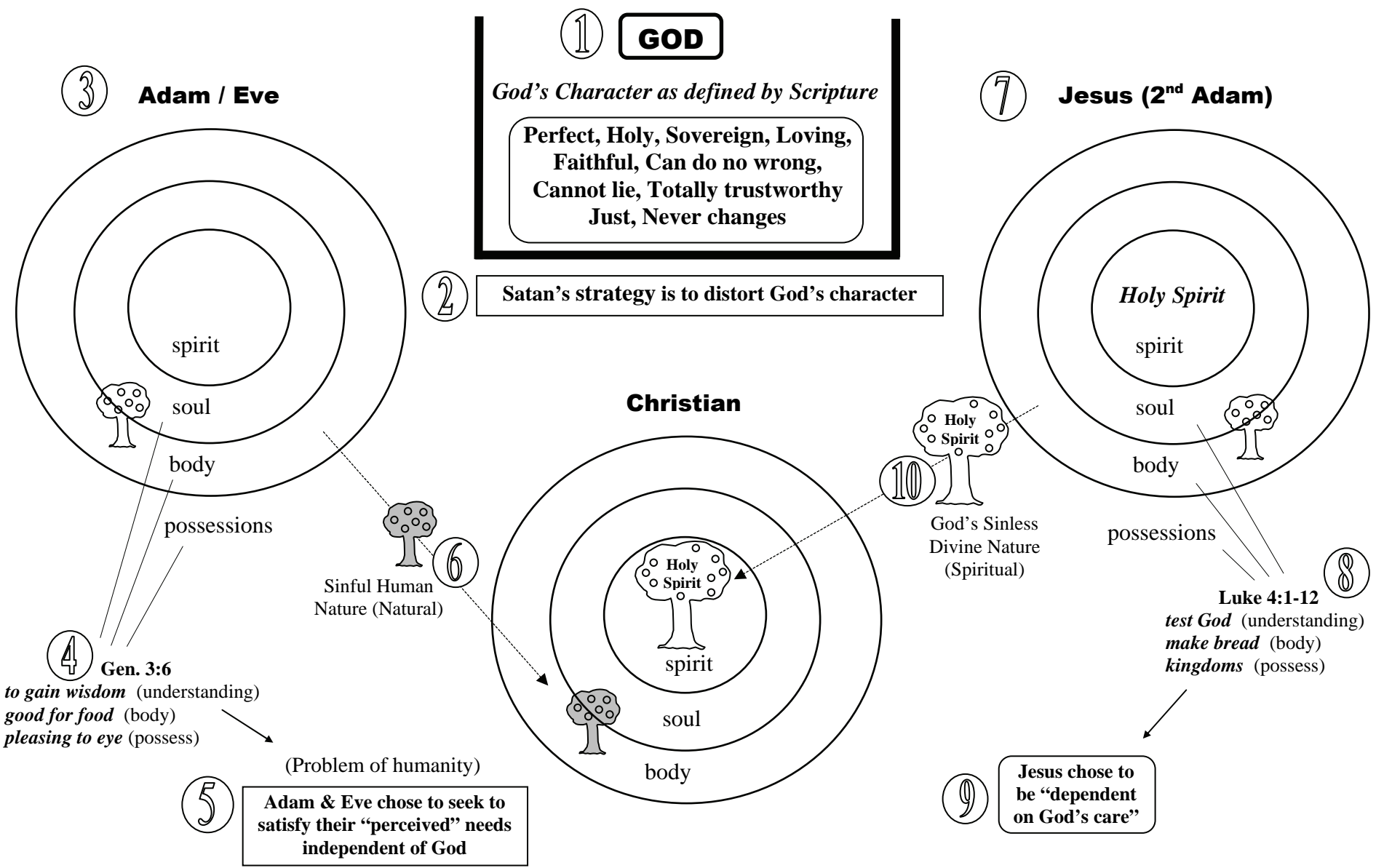


# HOW I RECEIVED MY HUMAN NATURE & GOD'S DIVINE NATURE



## ORIGIN OF THE TWO NATURES - GUIDE

The main purpose of this lesson is to help clarify the events which have led to our present condition as a **believer having two natures**. A number of foundational Biblical principles will be introduced which should help us to more easily understand other truths as they are presented in subsequent lessons.

① **The Character of God** --- It is important to understand the significance of Biblical terms that describe His attributes. As we allow the Holy Spirit to speak **through His written Word**, His attributes will be reinforced. **Important: The main purpose of presenting God's attributes is to demonstrate how reasonable it is to trust Him.** Reason out that if God's character is as portrayed in the Bible, then it is very **logical** to trust Him completely, and very **illogical** to not trust Him. There is **no** reasonable logic for a resistance to yielding to Him. The corrupted human nature is rebellious to God and will **always** oppose Him. A major reason for distrusting God is our tendency to impute to God **our** character. If God were like us then it would be quite **reasonable** to distrust Him.

**Deut. 32:3-4** ... Ascribe greatness to our God! "The **Rock!** His work is **perfect**, for all His ways are **just**; a God of **faithfulness** and **without injustice**, **righteous** and **upright** is He.

**Job 34:10** "... **far be it from God to do wickedness, and from the Almighty to do wrong.**

**Heb. 6:18** ... it is **impossible for God to lie**, ...

**1 John 4:16** ... God is **love**, ...

**Malachi 3:6** "For I, the Lord, **do not change**; ...

② **Satan's strategy** --- is to persuade people that God is **not trustworthy**, by undermining their confidence in **God's character**. **Example:** In Genesis 3:1-5 he sought to instill doubt, insinuating that God is a liar, suggesting that God did not have their best interest at heart, and implying that He was withholding that which in some way would be good for them. If God did not love them, how then could He be trusted?

**Gen. 3:1-5** *Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, **has God said**, 'You shall not eat from **any** tree of the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.' " The serpent said to the woman, "**You surely will not die!** "For God knows that in the day you eat from it **your eyes will be opened**, and you will be **like God, knowing** good and evil."*

③ When Adam and Eve were created they were made **perfect**, as was all creation. They were complete and **totally** satisfied, not lacking in any way. Everything they did was in total harmony with God's character. Death did **not exist** before that time.

**Rom. 5:12** ... just as **through one man** sin entered into the world, and **death through sin**, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

**1 Cor. 15:21-22** For since by a man came **death**, ... **in Adam all die**, ...

4 5

Adam and Eve believed Satan's lie about God's character and ate the fruit, choosing to pursue self-satisfaction "**independent**" of God. The choice to live independent from God was evident in **three areas** - (1) the **human understanding** (to gain wisdom), (2) the **appetites of the body** (good for food), and (3) **possessions** (pleasing to the eye). (Temptations also fall into one of these three areas.) It is important to see this "**predisposition toward independence**" as the "**root**" **problem of humanity** and one of the driving forces behind the global and individual resistance to God.

**Gen. 3:6** *When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.*

6

Every person born into the **human race** inherits the sinful human nature (*pictured as a dark tree*) of Adam, through their father. Every human from birth is at odds with God's character.

**Gen. 5:3** ... Adam ... became the father of a son in **his own likeness**, according to **his image**, ...

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Jesus was born into the human race, but **without** a sinful human father. As the **second Adam**, He was born with the same **sinless** human nature that Adam had before he fell. The righteous character of Jesus, as seen in His life, is what God had originally intended for Adam.

**1 Cor. 15:45-46** ... "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The **last Adam** became a **life-giving spirit**. ...

**Rom. 5:19** For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made **sinners**, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made **righteous**.

8 9

Jesus was tempted in the **same three areas** as Adam, but Jesus chose to entrust Himself into God's care instead of believing Satan's enticement to seek to live independent of God.

10

**Upon believing**, the new believer is born into the **spiritual race**, and receives the divine nature in **the Person of the Holy Spirit**. **Important:** The sinful human nature can **never** be improved. (See Gal. 5:17 below)

**John 3:3,6** *Jesus answered ... "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God." ... "That which is **born of the flesh** is flesh, and that which is **born of the Spirit** is spirit.*

**Rom. 7:14-25** ... *For I know that **nothing good dwells in me**, that is, **in my flesh**; ... I find then the principle that **evil is present in me**, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God **in the inner man**, but I see a different law **in the members of my body**, waging war against the law of **my mind** and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is **in my members**. ... So then, on the one hand **I myself with my mind** am serving the law of God, but on the other, **with my flesh** the law of sin.*

**Gal. 5:16-23** *But I say, walk **by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out **the desire of the flesh**. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are **in opposition to one another**. ... Now **the deeds of the flesh** are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, ... But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;*