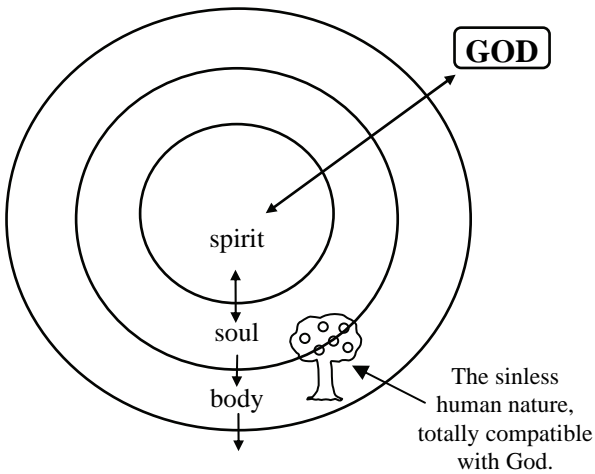



OVERVIEW OF THE TWO NATURES

1 Adam - before he sinned (Jesus - while on earth)



All behavior was in total harmony with God's character, totally pleasing to God.

 = The sinless human nature, totally compatible with God.

Gen. 1:27 God created man in His own image, ...
Gen. 2:7 ... the Lord God ... breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (only said of man)

Gen. 1:31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. ... (no imperfections, nothing lacking)

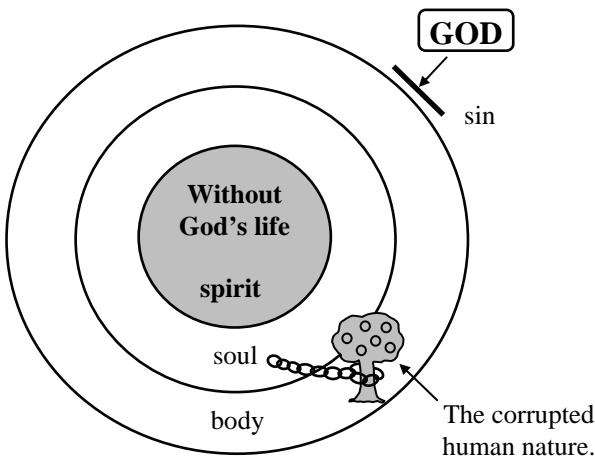
Rom. 5:14 ... Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

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


Phil. 2:5,7 ... Christ Jesus, ... emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Heb. 4:15 (Jesus) ... One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

2 All unbelievers



Their works (fruit) have no life (eternal), are imperfect (flawed), and therefore unacceptable to God.

 = The sinful human nature, corrupted and incapable of producing fruit that is acceptable and pleasing to God.

Rom. 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom. 3:10-12 ... There is none righteous, not even one; ... there is none who seeks for God; ... there is none who does good, there is not even one."

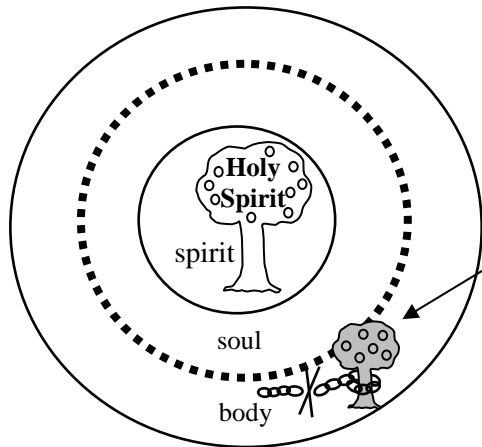
Rom. 8:8 ... those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

1 Cor. 15:22 For as in Adam all die, ...

Eph. 2:12 ... having no hope and without God in the world.

Thought: God can only accept that which is perfect (100%, without blemish). Nothing that originates from the human nature has that quality. The unbeliever is devoid of His life. Only God alone can produce anything of eternal value.

3 The condition of “abiding” in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. (The “normal” Christian life)
 “walking in the Spirit”



Human Nature is still present and corrupted, but powerless

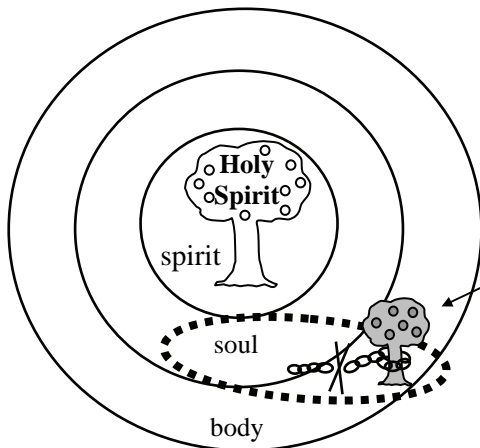
All that I allow the **Holy Spirit** to do through me is **eternal** and **rewardable** at the judgment seat of Christ (gold, silver, precious stones).

Gal. 5:16 ... walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Gal. 5:22-23 ... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Note: The circular “dotted line” represents the “conditional” aspect of abiding.

4 The condition of “not abiding”, having an unresolved issue(s) with the Holy Spirit.
 “walking in the flesh”



The Law condemns

All that is **not** motivated by the Holy Spirit is **temporal**, **without** His life and **not** rewardable (wood, hay, stubble).

Gal. 5:17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are **in opposition** to one another, ...

John 15:4-5 “... As the branch **cannot** bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so **neither can you** unless you abide in Me. ... for **apart from Me you can do nothing** (nothing of eternal value).

Thoughts:

Even though I am walking in fellowship with the Holy Spirit (#3), and have no unresolved issues, **not all** that I do is motivated by Him, or is even pleasing to Him. As I allow Him to grow and mature me, He will increasingly have more freedom to bear His fruit. If I find myself out of fellowship with the Holy Spirit (#4), it is **by my choice**. I do not need to be out of fellowship with the Holy Spirit any longer than **I choose** to be. Restoration to the condition of abiding fellowship (#3) will take place **immediately** upon confession of the offense(s) for which the Holy Spirit is holding me accountable. We have **freedom** in Christ ... **not** independence.

How can I know if I’m out of fellowship with the Holy Spirit (#4)? Usually **symptoms** indicate an ailing body. Similarly look for “**on-going**” spiritual symptoms of the sinful nature, such as: **Stumbling, Striving, Impatience, Lack of peace, Frustration, Sense of defeat, Dissatisfaction, Complaining, Worry, Anxiety, Anger, Irritability, Addictive behavior, Critical or Judgmental attitude, etc.**

1. Man attempts to improve outward behavior, but God focuses our attention on the root problem - the sinful human nature. Outward behavior is simply the evidence of the real problem.

Mat. 5:21-22 (Jesus said) “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; ...

5:27-28 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Mat. 15:19 “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

2. God uses trees and plants to illustrate the human life.

Jer. 17:5-6 Thus says the Lord, “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the Lord. “For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitant.

17:7-8 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord. “For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.

Psa. 1:3 He (a righteous man) will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither;

Mat. 7:17-18 “So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. “A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

3. The human nature is sinful, independent, and beyond repair.

Jer. 17:9 “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; ...

John 6:63 “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; ...

Rom. 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; ...

Rom. 3:10-12 as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; ... There is none who seeks for God; all ... have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one.”

Rom. 8:8 ... those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Gal. 5:17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

4. God uses the law to show me the hopelessness of my human nature in order to persuade me not to rely on it, but rather on the Holy Spirit.

(See also Galatians 3:1-3)

Rom. 3:19-20 *Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. (See also Heb. 7:18-19)*

Rom. 5:20 *The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; ...*

Gal. 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Everything that is motivated by the Holy Spirit is in complete harmony with God's character.*

Note also: *for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation. (Rom. 4:15) ... sin is not imputed when there is no law. (Rom. 5:13)*

5. James compares the human nature to a “salt water” spring and the divine nature of the Holy Spirit to a spring of “living water”

James 3:9-12 *... from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.*

John 7:37-39 *... Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ ” But this He spoke of the Spirit, ... (See also John 4:13-14)*

Note: The Law could be pictured as a sign beside a salty spring in the desert, “**WARNING! THIS WATER IS CONTAMINATED AND UNHEALTHY TO DRINK.**” Salt-water “looks like” fresh water, but it is unable to support human life.

Note: The **Law of Gravity** illustrates how my Human Nature continually attracts me away from God. *For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, ... (Gal. 5:17).* My sinful nature influences me spiritually similar to the way gravity influences my physical body. I am always aware of gravity and am continually making adjustments so as not to be overcome by it. If I trip or fall I don't have to stay down. No baby begins the physical life walking.

6. In Romans, chaps. 7 - 8, Paul presents the hopelessness of the human nature and God's perfect solution.

NOTE: In the following verses, “*death*” refers to “absence of life”, i.e. devoid of life originating from God. (as, for instance, a salt water spring).

a. From God's perspective the believer has “died to” (freed from) the sinful nature, and has been joined to Christ.

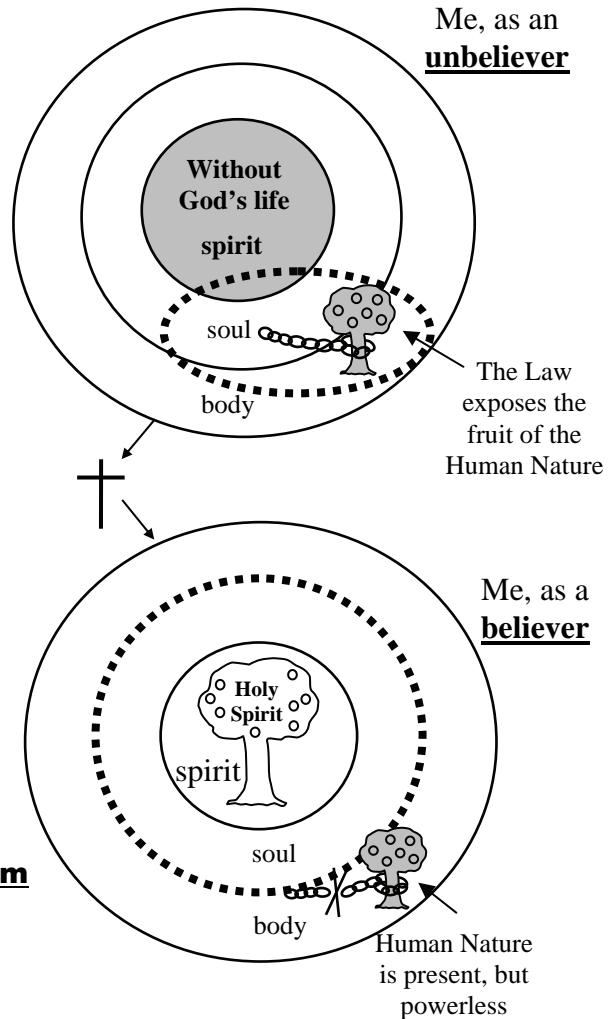
Rom. 6:18, 22 *and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ... having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, ...*

Rom. 7:4 ... you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

b. As an unbeliever I was dominated by my sinful nature, which resides in my physical body.

Rom. 7:5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death (absence of life).

The fact is, Christians **died to sin**. The Greek aorist (past) tense for “died” suggests a **specific point** when the action occurred, at salvation. Death, whether physical or spiritual, means **separation**, not extinction (cf. vv. 6:6-7, 14). Death to sin is separation from sin’s power, not the extinction of sin. Being dead to sin means being “set free from sin” (vv. 6:18, 22 above). That being true, Paul asked, **How can they live in it any longer?** Obviously believers cannot live in sin if they died to it.” Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, IL: Scripture Press Pub., Inc.) 1983, 1985.



Note: The circular “dotted line” represents the “conditional” aspect of abiding

c. Now, as a believer, I have been freed from bondage to the sinful nature.

Rom. 7:6 But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

d. God never intended the Law to be a means by which humans could make the sinful nature acceptable to Him, but rather He used the Law to demonstrate how “totally unacceptable” the sinful nature is.

Rom. 7:7-13 ... I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “You shall not covet.” ... So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.

- e. **Paul experienced what every Christian needs to learn, that the sinful nature is not the least bit improved since I became a Christian. No matter how I try, I cannot make it conform to God's character.**

Rom. 7:14-16 *For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good.*

- f. **Paul became aware that the sinful nature cannot be changed. It no longer represented his real desires, but what other option did he have?**

Rom. 7:17-24 *So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 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. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?*

- g. **God's solution for the hopelessness of the sinful human nature was not to repair or overhaul the old nature, but to provide a new nature that is totally compatible with His character. Paul did not reside in Rom. 7, nor should I.**

Rom. 7:25 *Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! 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.*

8:1-4 *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

8:5-8 *For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death (absence of life), but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Gal. 2:19-20 *“For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God. “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; ...”*

**...walk by the Spirit,
and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.**

(Galatians 5:16)

