



Sanctification

PART 1.5

BUILD YOUR LIFE ON THE FOUNDATION OF 11 CORE BIBLICAL TRUTHS

The Two Natures of the Christian

You have both an _____ nature and a _____ nature.



A Closer Look

The Old and New Natures of the Christian

Your old nature, which the Bible also calls your “flesh,” is your inner desire and tendency toward sin. It is not the feeling of being tempted; it is the inner part of who you are that inevitably will choose to say yes to various temptations. Before you became a believer, your old nature was your only nature. We all have this old nature—this natural propensity to sin—because of the fall of man that happened in the Garden of Eden.

Your new nature was given to you the moment you gave your life to Christ. The new nature is the new life and new power to live that have been given to you because of your trust in what Jesus did for you through his death and resurrection.

One of the most crucial aspects of growth in our lives as believers is learning how to trust God concerning both our old nature and our new nature.

- You express faith concerning your new nature when you see yourself as _____.

When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun!

—2 Corinthians 5:17 (LB)

1. I was “_____.”

All of us were born in sin because we are Adam’s descendants. We choose to sin because that is our spiritual nature. The Bible refers to our condition as being in Adam, which means we were subject to judgment and death.

For as in Adam all die . . .

—1 Corinthians 15:22

2. I am now “_____.”

Spiritual life is gained only through spiritual birth (John 3:6). The moment we were born again, our soul came into union with God because of Christ. We are now in Christ.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

—Ephesians 1:3–4

There are only two types of people in the world—those who are in Adam and those who are in Christ. You are in Christ if Christ is in you. An exchange of lives occurs: You give Jesus your life, and he gives you his.

Who Is This “New Person?”

- I am a light in the world (Matt. 5:14).
- I am a child of God (John 1:12).
- I am Christ’s friend (John 15:15).
- I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear his fruit (John 15:16).
- I am a slave of righteousness (Rom. 6:18).
- I am a joint heir with Christ (Rom. 8:17).
- I am a temple, a dwelling place, of God (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19).
- I am a member of Christ’s body (1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 5:30).
- I am a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).
- I am reconciled to God and a minister of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18–19).

- I am a saint (Eph. 1:1; 1 Cor. 2:1–2).
- I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10).
- I am a citizen of heaven (Phil. 3:20; Eph. 2:6).
- I am righteous and holy (Eph. 4:24).
- I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).
- I am chosen and dearly loved (Col. 3:12).
- I am a son/daughter of light and not of darkness (1 Thess. 5:5).
- I am an enemy of the Devil (1 Peter 5:8).
- I am victorious (1 John 5:4).
- I am born again (1 Peter 1:23).
- I am alive with Christ (Eph. 2:5).
- I am more than a conqueror (Rom. 8:37).
- I am the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21).
- I am born of God and the Evil One cannot touch me (1 John 5:18).
- I am to be like Christ when he returns (1 John 3:1–2).



Key Personal Perspective

Truths to Help You Live Your New Life

1. You don't have to _____ your new life.

Newness is a creation of God.

You have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you.

—Colossians 3:10 (NLT)

2. You don't have to work to _____ your new life.

Your new life is kept with Christ in God.

Your old sinful self has died, and your new life is kept with Christ in God.

—Colossians 3:3 (NCV)

- You express faith concerning your old nature when you see yourself as _____.

Your old sin-loving nature was buried with him by baptism when he died, and when God the Father, with glorious power, brought him back to life again, you were given his wonderful new life to enjoy.

—Romans 6:4 (LB)

One of the most discussed points of doctrine over the centuries has to do with what the Bible means when it tells us that this old nature is dead. Some have suggested that this means this old nature has disappeared—which obviously is not true from our daily experience! Others suggest it is a matter of self-discipline to say no to our old nature—yet self-discipline by itself is not enough to change us.

How do we choose to trust with faith what the Bible means when it says our old sinful nature is dead?

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.

—Ephesians 4:22

How do I “put off” the old nature?

- Not by _____
- Not by _____
- By faith in what _____

And since your old sin-loving nature “died” with Christ, we know that you will share his new life.

—Romans 6:8 (LB)



A Closer Look

Don't Miss This!

What does dead mean? (It does not mean “no longer present or an influence in your life.”)

It means:

It no longer has the power to force you to sin—you have a choice.

You no longer enjoy the sin in the same way—you have changed.

- You express faith concerning your new and old natures when you see yourself with a new power to overcome evil.

Before salvation, I belonged to _____.

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire.

—John 8:44

After salvation, I belong to _____.

And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

—Romans 1:6

Because I belong to God, Satan has no power to control me.

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.

—1 Peter 5:8–9

God has not left our growth to chance. The foundation of your sanctification is nothing less than the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This means two things:

First, because of the power of Jesus' crucifixion, you no longer have to be controlled by your old nature.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

—Galatians 2:20

Second, because of the power of Jesus' resurrection, you have a new nature.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

—Romans 6:11–13



Discussion Questions

1. Do you think any Christian ever truly feels completely holy? Can you remember the times and places in your life when you have felt the most holy?
2. What are the inner attitudes that encourage and inspire your growth in Christ? What attitudes put up a barrier to your growth?
3. How has becoming a Christian changed your life? What new habits do you now enjoy as a Christian?
4. Have you been frustrated by the battle with sin? How do you think facing the battle through faith in God rather than with just personal willpower will make a difference in your daily life?
5. How would the truths we've talked about help you to answer someone who has the questions listed below?
 - I'm not really sure I'm a believer because of the way I sometimes act.
 - Why do I keep doing the same wrong things over and over now that I am a believer?