

THE NATURE OF MAN
FROM
CREATION TO CONVERSION

It is imperative for a Christian to know what happened to him at conversion in order to have victory in his daily life.

God makes some changes in a man's composition when he is saved.

A saved person consists of a body, a soul, and a spirit, according to I Thessalonians 5:23 - Read.

To learn more about how this resulted, we will begin in Genesis 1:26-27, where God first created the first man. - Read: Gen. 1:26-27.

Notice the plural pronouns in verse 26.

God has more than one part --Let us make man in our image."

According to I John 5:7, God has three parts; - Read.

"The Word" referred to is the Lord Jesus Christ, according to John 1:1-14.

Read John 1:1-14.

God, a triune being consisting of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, made man in His image.

Jesus Christ is that image according to Colossians 1:13-15 - Read.

"Who is the image of God"

Hebrews 1:3, also states, in reference to "his Son" verse 2: "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person..."

II Corinthians 4:4 states, "...less the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God..."

During His earthly ministry Jesus Christ was the image of God and He was a tricotomy: He had three parts.

He was God the Father according to Isaiah 9:6 - read - "the everlasting Father"

He was also God the Son, manifest in the flesh - I Timothy 3:16 - read.
"God was manifest in the flesh"

He was also God, the Holy Spirit according to Galatians 4:6 - read
"Spirit of his Son"

Since Jesus Christ was the image of God, and He was a trichotomy, then the man Adam that God made in His image was a trichotomy also.

Genesis 2:7, tells how this creation took place: Read.

The body was formed from the dust of the ground.

It has the same twelve elements in it that dirt does.

You heard of the expression "dirt bag" that is exactly what man is.

According to Jean Morten, writing in Science in the Bible, page 223, "Chemical analysis of the mineral residue of man shows that he is made of the same materials as the dust of the earth."

The spirit came from God when He breathed into man the breath of life.

John 3:8 likens the Spirit to wind: Read.

In Ezekiel 37:9,10,14, the dry bones were to live by the breath of the winds:
"Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, exceeding great....And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live."

Genesis 2:7 finished by saying that "man became a living soul."

According to the Bible this soul has a bodily shape. - Read Rev. 6:9,11

Here are souls which have been given robes to wear, so they had a shape.

In Luke 16 when the rich man was in hell and Lazarus was in Abraham's bosom, they were spoken of as having human features in verses 23 and 24 (read)
vs 23 - "lift up his eyes"
vs 24 - "cool my tongue"

When the witch at Endor raised Samuel at the command of Saul in I Samuel 28:14, he had a bodily shape, and Saul recognized him.
"old man"

Adam was created a triune being consisting of a body, soul, and spirit.

The Bible later tells us what happened to Adam.

He was created in perfection without iniquity.

In Genesis 1:31, when God reviewed everything that He had made on the sixth day of creation, He stated, “behold, it was very good.”

Something happened to Adam later that affected the whole human race and changed man from sinless to sinful.

God commanded Adam in Genesis 2:16-17: Read.

Adam disobeyed God and God had said that he would die.

Which part of him died?

His body obviously did not die at that time, “in the day that thou eatest.”

According to Revelation 21:8, the sinful soul doesn't die until goes to the lake of fire; then it experiences the second death.

Even then, the soul is still eternal; it isn't annihilated.

It is damned, separated from God, and experiences an eternal death, in eternal fire, a complete absence of life because of its sin and unbelief.

If Adam's body or soul did not die the day he ate of the fruit, his spirit must have.

That is why Jesus Christ said in John 3:6-7 - Read.

The apostle Paul also said to saved people in Ephesians 2:1, “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.”

Adam's spiritual nature died when he sinned and all of his descendants share in that death when they knowingly sin against God.

Romans 7:7-10 says: Read

Romans 5:12 says: Read

I Corinthians 15:22 says: Read

Adam's body, his flesh, did not die at the time he sinned, but it became sinful and rebellious toward God.

Romans 7:18 says, “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing.”

Ephesians 4:22 speaks of the flesh, the old man, saying, "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts."

As a result of Adam's sin every person's flesh is sinful and at war with God.

Romans 8:7-8 says "Because the carnal mind is enmity..."

Although Adam's soul did not die when he disobeyed God, something did happen to it.

It became joined with his flesh and partook of the sins of the flesh.

Ezekiel 18:4 says, "...the soul that sinneth, it shall die."

In the Old Testament the word "soul" is sometimes substituted for "body" because it was joined to the body and shared its sins.

In Genesis 12:12-13, Abraham says to Sarah - Read.
vs 13 - "my soul shall live because of thee"

A similar phrase occurs in Genesis 19:19-20, when Lot was fleeing from Sodom:
vs 19 - "saving my life"
vs 20 - "my soul shall live"

In both these instances, the men bodies would have been killed, not their souls.

The Holy Spirit replaces the word "body" with "soul" at times in the Old Testament to show that after Adam sinned they were joined together, like a man and his wife are joined together.

Romans 7:1-6, likens the old nature (the body) to a man that dies and then the soul is loosed from the flesh, as the woman is free from the law of her husband.

Since the body and soul of the unsaved are joined together, the soul partakes of the sins of the body.

Romans 8:8 says: "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

An unsaved person cannot please God because his spirit is dead in trespasses and sins and his soul is joined to his flesh, or "in the flesh"

Romans 8:9, referring to a Christian continues: "But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you."

Something has happened to Christians so that they are not in the flesh and do not partake of the sins of the flesh.

Hebrews 4:12 speaks of an operation done by the word of God: Read.

Colossians 2:11-14 speaks again of this operation, or circumcision or cutting which takes place at the time of a man's conversion: Read

vs 11 - "by the circumcision"

vs 13 - "hath he quickened"

According to these verses, the body of the sins of the flesh is put off by the circumcision of Christ which is accomplished by the Word of God, *God's two edged sword*.

Romans 6:6 says - Read.

Our bodies have been cut loose and crucified in God's eyes and our souls are free so that we need no longer serve the lusts of the flesh.

One other thing happens at conversion that gives us the power not to serve sin.

Our spirit is regenerated, or resurrected, and baptized with the Holy Spirit and a new spiritual man is created.

Titus 3:5 says: Read

Jesus Christ speaks of this new birth in John 3:3-7.

As a result of being born again, the saved person is sealed with the Holy Spirit according to Ephesians 1:13 - read. and baptized into the body of Christ, I Corinthians 12:13: "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body."

Since the man's spirit is made new and baptized into the body of Christ, it is one with the Holy Spirit according to I Corinthians 6:17: "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit."

The spirit cannot sin according to I John 3:9 - Read.

Herein lies the secret of victory over sin for a Christian.

The soul has been cut loose from the flesh and does not partake of the sins of the flesh and the spirit has been born again and cannot sin and the Holy Spirit dwells within.

Romans 8:9-11 says: Read

These truths can be applied to a Christian's life in a very practical way.

Romans 6:6-14 tells how a Christian can use the truths that his body is dead in God's eyes, his soul (the real "him") has been cut loose from the flesh, and his spirit has been regenerated:

vs. 6 - read

vs. 7 - read

vs. 8 - read

vs. 9 - him. - Emphasis

vs. 10 - read

vs. 11 - Likewise - Emphasis

vs. 12 - mortal - Emphasis

vs. 13 - your members (the body)

vs. 14 - over you: for ye (the soul)

Galatians 2:20 says: "I (the body) am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I (the soul) live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me (the spirit): and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

The Christian's body is crucified, dead and buried in God's eyes and he no longer has to serve the flesh and the lusts thereof.

He needs to "reckon" or believe that his flesh is dead and has no power over him and that he doesn't have to serve it and obey it.

Whenever the flesh wants to do something sinful, the Christian can tell it.

"You're dead". I don't have to do what you say."

The Christian has the Holy Spirit within giving him the power to resist the flesh and do right.

Ephesians 4:22-24 says: - read.

The new man and the old man in a Christian are in a state of continual warfare.

Galatians 5:16-18 and Romans 7:15-25, describe this and show the way of victory

Galatians 5:16 - 18 read

vs. 16 - This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lest of the the flesh. (this how to get the victory)

vs. 17 - read

vs. 18 - read

Romans 7:15-25 - read

God has given us the victory over sin - it is the power of Jesus Christ who lives within us.

Romans 8:37 says: "Nay in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Our knowledge of these changes in our spiritual nature should give us the faith to "be strong in the Lord..." Eph. 6:10, "and not rely on our own strength "

With His power in our lives we can resist any temptation, overcome any adverse situation and be able to serve Him however, whenever, or wherever He chooses.

What more could we do in this life to bring glory and honor to our savior and our God. I hope this study will help bring Victory in life's battles.