

Unit 14: The 2 Natures and Predestination

Unit Introduction

In this unit we will be studying the battle that rages inside of every believer. It is a battle that the unbeliever can never have. It is the battle between the new nature and the old sin nature. The unbeliever does not have the new nature, therefore there is no battle.

We will see that though the believer is now saved, and has a new nature, he still has the old sinful nature, and that sin nature cannot be reformed. All it can do is sin. However, we will see that it is possible for the Christian to walk in a manner that feeds his new nature, starving the old.

Finally, in our last lesson, we will examine the often controversial issue of predestination. Does God really choose who gets to go to heaven, and who gets to go to hell? We will see that when we study God's Word, and believe it for what it says, that the Biblical doctrine of predestination makes sense, and is not complicated at all.

Unit Outline

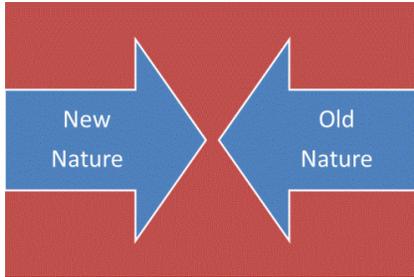
Lesson 36 The 2 Natures Part 1

Lesson 37 The 2 Natures Part 2

Lesson 38 Predestination

Lesson 36: The 2 Natures Part 1

Lesson Introduction



In this lesson we will begin to examine the battle that takes place in the Christian. It is a battle unique to the Christian; the unbeliever has no new nature, and therefore has only the sin nature to feed.

In Topic 1 we will examine Scripture to see evidence that we still have a sin nature after we are saved. We will also look at the question, “Can I live however I want?” Often, those who preach salvation by grace through faith alone are accused of promoting

living a life as one pleases.

In Topic 2 we will look at what Jesus taught regarding the Second Birth. We will examine His midnight meeting with Nicodemus to see what God Himself has to say regarding the new nature.

Finally, in Topic 3, we will begin to dissect just how it is that the Christian can arm himself to fight the old nature. It is a lifelong process, but a process that the Bible clearly lays out. If we are to be successful at fighting the old nature, we need to be starving it, and feeding our new nature.

Topic 1: No Old Nature?

See, we have battles through life. And we’re going to talk about the two natures today. We’ve got Heaven that’s going to be opened up. And it’s going to be forever, and ever, and ever, and ever, and ever—glorious, wonderful Heaven. But as we’re going to Heaven, we have battles, tremendous battles. There’s another battle that’s a harder battle than that battle, and that’s the battle of two natures. Now what do you mean by two natures? I remember getting saved, and I remember going to some Campus Crusade for Christ meetings, and I remember seeing a guy get up, and he said, “When I got saved, all things passed away. The old things passed away. All things became new, and I’m a new creature.” I said, “Man, that’s wonderful.” I remember seeing him later at a party, drunk. It kind of almost blew my faith. I thought, Man, how could that guy be saved, get up and say, ‘All things are [new]’? But when I heard him say that, I’m thinking, But all things in me are not changed. I still have bad thoughts, I still . . . And am I really saved? I wasn’t sure if I was really saved or not. See, the misunderstanding of the two natures has got people so confused. It’s absolutely incredible how confused people are. There’s a man. He’s a very nice man. I totally disagree with him. He’s on radio. He’s a very good preacher. I’ve met him personally. His father has actually attended this church. He’s out in California. His name’s John MacArthur—a very nice man, but I totally disagree with him. He’s an excellent Bible teacher in many areas, but he says there’s no such thing as a one-time salvation. He says you can’t be sure you’re saved, unless you’re living it. And he says that we don’t have an old nature. And people get very, very confused. I think he’s a very sincere man. I think he’s probably a nicer man than me. I just don’t agree with him, period. I just don’t agree with him.

QUESTION 1

The confusion surrounding the 2 natures often causes born-again Christians to doubt whether they are saved. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 2

Confusing teachings regarding the 2 natures are: *(Select all that apply.)*

Answer: _____

- A. If you're truly saved, you'll serve.
- B. Old things are passed away.
- C. You will have a battle inside of you.
- D. The only assurance of salvation is living it.

Can I Live However I Want?

One group says that you don't have an old nature. Some say you're saved by living it. Others say there is no one-time salvation. There is one group of people that believe that you're saved forever. I believe you're saved forever. I believe once you're saved, you can't lose it. That was the one thing my dad taught me never to accept, is that if you're saved, you can't lose it. He said, "Don't ever believe that, Son." Oh, that was hard for me to believe. You mean I can live as I please and I can do whatever I want, and I can still go to Heaven? Boy, that is hard to accept. That doesn't make sense. It really doesn't. That God would save us apart from our works. Well that's one group. We've got another group, says you can be saved and you can lose it. That's what I was as a Methodist. I remember one time going down the aisle. We had revivals, and then we had a famous evangelist named Ford Philpot. Now some of you laugh at that. But he was very famous. He had a national TV show, and we were so proud to have him come to our church. And we had his big name, you know, out in the front. Boy, he was one of those dynamic preachers. Man, I tell you, and he said if you don't come forward . . . he says—you know, like Jonathan Edwards—you're walking over the crust of the earth, and you can drop into Hell, and man, I was embarrassed because I was the preacher's son. And I was sitting back, you know, as kids will do with their buddies. And we all wanted to be cool. And he said, "Come forward." He said, "Don't worry about anybody else." Man, I stepped out there. I didn't care if my dad was down there, I didn't care who was down there. I went down [to] that altar, but I didn't get saved. I was trusting in my works. And I vowed that I was not going to have another bad thought. I wasn't going to do one more thing bad the rest of my life. And I went home that night, and I prayed and I prayed. And I said, "God, I'm going to do everything you want me to do." It only lasted two nights, because I couldn't do it. It's impossible to try to save yourself. And then the other group says if you don't live it, you never really had it to start with. Now that's a popular group, because that one says, "I believe you're saved forever, but if you're not living it, you never were saved." So that appeals to what they call "both groups," Calvinist and Arminian. [Arminians] believe you can be saved and lose it. Calvinists believe you can't. I'm not a Calvinist, and I'm not an Arminian. I'm a Bible-believer, and a Bible-believer, the Bible says you're saved forever.

QUESTION 3

The Biblical teaching regarding salvation is: _____

- A. You're saved by living it.
- B. There is no one-time salvation.
- C. You are saved forever; you can't lose it.
- D. If you have fruit, then you are saved.

QUESTION 4

If you don't live out your salvation, then you never had it to start with. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 2: 2 Births, 2 Natures

And I want us to start looking at some of our verses. Oh, I love this chapter in John chapter 3. We're going to skip around a little bit, but all the verses are listed. This is Nicodemus. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." [You've] got to be born again. You cannot earn your salvation. The word "born," gennao in the Greek, and it means "to regenerate; to bear; to beget; to be born; to bring forth; to conceive; to be delivered up". See, we're born the first time, and then we're going to be born a second time if we're going to go to Heaven. Now that word "again," anothēn in the Greek, and it means, "anew," -- now listen to this – it means "from above". "From above; from the beginning; from the top". We're born the first time of our mother on Earth. We're born the second time of our Heavenly Father in Heaven. The first birth, we're born of woman. The second birth, we're born of God. When we get born of God, the problem is, we still are born of woman. We still have our old nature. Now I totally believe that you're going to understand totally that we have two natures. I really do believe the Bible teaches it very clearly.

QUESTION 5

The phrase "born-again" in John 3:3 refers to the earthly physical birth. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 6

When we are born of God, our old nature is taken away. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 7

The Bible is very clear that we have 2 natures. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Born of Water and of Spirit

John 3:4, "Nicodemus [saith] unto him" --now this is an intelligent man. He says, "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" He's being a little bit, I don't want to say facetious. He's a very intelligent man, Nicodemus. Can you be born again? Can you be born again? "Jesus answered, Verily, verily" –that word, verily, verily means 'truthfully, truthfully'—"I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Born of water—oh, that means water baptism. People say, "You got to be water baptized to be saved." Does that say water baptism? Do you see water baptism in there? When does born mean water baptism? That born of water can mean two things. The Bible refers to the Holy Spirit as water, living water, over and over and over again. We're going to see that as we continue on in this message. But it also could mean—which I kind of lean toward, although I'm not dogmatic on this—this could be your first birth. You got to be born of water, [the] water sac breaks, a child is born. Or then born again, born of the Spirit. So it could mean "born of water," referring to the Spirit, and that word "and" is because of the Spirit. Or it could mean the first and the second birth. But either way, whichever one of those you accept, it does not mean baptize. When God means baptize, He says baptize. He doesn't say born. [It's] very clear.

QUESTION 8

“Born of water” in John 3:4 can be translated to mean water baptism. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 9

Two different possibilities for the meaning of “born of water” are: (*Select all that apply.*)

Answer: _____

- A. Born of the Holy Spirit (often referred to as living water)
- B. Water baptism
- C. The natural birth
- D. Baptized as a baby

QUESTION 10

The Bible is always clear: when God means baptize, He says baptize, not born. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Lipstick on a Pig

Now let's keep going. This is why I personally believe it's talking about the first birth. The next verse, it says, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; [and] that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” Two births. I want this—since I'm left-handed, I want to let that be my first birth since I'm left-handed—okay, I'm born the first time of my mom. When I get born again, I'm born from above, from the Father. [We] got two births; we got two natures. Now this one, no matter what I do, this is still the old birth. And you say, “Well, I'm going to put a suit on it,” you know. And see, you can dress up the old nature. You can dress up the old man, and you still got an old man, [an] old nature. You can take a pig and wash that pig up, clean it, get it smelling good. If you let that pig go, that pig's going to go right back into the mud. That's our old nature. When we're born again, we got a new nature. This is our new birth. What a lot of people don't realize is that there's a battle going on—the greatest battle ever known on the face of the earth—a battle of a saved person. Sometimes people are surprised when they're saved and they don't all of a sudden change. I know some preachers preach that if you're saved, you will automatically change. One time I had a man, and it was a good man, and I had invited him to preach on Sunday morning. And he said if you're saved, you will change. And everybody's looking at me. What's pastor going to do with that one? I didn't want to embarrass the man, so I got up and I said, “You know, I agree with what he said. If you're saved, you'll change. Sometimes you get better, and sometimes you get worse.” But you'll change. That's true. If you're saved, you won't stay the same. But you can get saved and become worse than before you were saved. You know why? This old nature does not change one iota when you get saved, and you've got all the power to do what you would do before you were saved. [It] doesn't change. It doesn't change.

QUESTION 11

If we have 2 births, it stands to follow that we have 2 natures. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 12

Because you get a new nature when you are saved, you will automatically change for the better. *True or False?* Answer: _____

QUESTION 13

If you are saved, there will be some kind of change in your life. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Flesh and Spirit Are Different

Okay, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; [and] that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” Okay, let’s keep going. Let’s look at John 3:16 now. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have,” what? “Everlasting life”. How long is everlasting life? It’s forever. See, that’s why I believe in eternal security, because God says it. If you’re not saved forever, you’re not saved. Because if you believe you have to work to keep it, then you’re believing in works, and works will not save you. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.” “For God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,” that means go to Hell, “ but have everlasting life”. How long is everlasting? Forever. If you had everlasting life, how long do you have it? It’s forever. Okay, now let’s go on. I love these verses. These are my favorite. John 3:17, “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” Look at John 3:18, “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” You’re condemned already if you don’t believe. You’re already condemned if you don’t believe. John 3:6, now go on back to that. That which is Spirit is spirit, and that which is flesh is flesh. You cannot get the flesh and blood into Heaven, because you have to be perfect to go to Heaven.

QUESTION 14

If you are not saved forever, you are not saved. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 15

If you believe you have to work to keep your salvation, you are trusting in works. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 16

What condemns a person is: _____

- A. Not bearing fruit
- B. Murder
- C. Not believing in Jesus alone
- D. Not being perfect

Believe Only

Okay, the Spirit birth is from God Himself. The Spirit birth is from God, and again, this birth right here is from God. This birth right here is perfect. This birth right here is totally imperfect. This birth right here, no matter how good you try to be, can never go to Heaven. That’s why you have to be born again. Now, look at John 1:12. “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”. You mean, Pastor Scudder, all I have to do to go to Heaven is believe? That’s right. Let’s look at that word “believe”. *Pisteuō* is in the Greek. And let me show you what this means, this word “believe”. It means to have faith, okay. It means to give credit. It means to entrust your

spiritual well-being to Christ. When you believe in Him, it's saying, "I put my trust totally in You, 100%. I believe that You alone will get me to Heaven, not You plus, but You alone, will get me to Heaven." The flesh is never good enough, never good enough, to get you to Heaven. Now John 1:13—now look at this. This really has something to say, "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Salvation is only when you're born of God. And you can have it. So many people, "Well, I'm going to be good. I'm going to do my best. I'm going to try to get this old man to look better and better and better. I'm going to put on a new suit." The flesh cannot get you to Heaven, but the new birth, it guarantees us the Holy Spirit. The new birth—it guarantees us that God will now make us part of His body and His bride. The new birth guarantees us that we'll never lose our salvation, but the new birth does not guarantee us that we will serve God. Now, the new birth guarantees us that we have the power to do it, the new birth guarantees us that the old nature cannot overrule the new nature. But the new birth does not guarantee that we will serve God. If the new birth guaranteed that we will serve God, then automatically, we would serve God.

Assignment:

Memorize John 1:13

QUESTION 17

No matter how hard you try to _____ the old nature, it is still imperfect.

Answer: _____

QUESTION 18

Salvation is putting your trust totally, 100% in Jesus, apart from any works at all. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 19

The new birth guarantees us: (*Select all that apply.*) Answer: _____

- A. God will make us part of His body
- B. We'll never lose our salvation
- C. We will serve God
- D. We will have the power to serve God.
- E. The old nature cannot overrule the new nature

Topic 3: The Battle Within

A Christian has a battle going on between the old and the new, at tremendous battle. Now let's look at some of the verses. And I want you to notice that the gift of the Holy Spirit is a gift. You know salvation's a gift. The Holy Spirit's a gift. You can't earn it. You can't earn it. Look at this. Look at John 7:38. The new birth guarantees us the Holy Spirit. "He that believeth," John 7:38, "on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." Please notice living water. Remember I said one of the ways you can interpret John 3:6, the flesh is flesh; and the Spirit is spirit? You could also interpret that as Living Water, the Holy Spirit. Believe me, H2O never, ever saved anybody. John 7:39, "But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive, for the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." See, only [in] the Church Age were we sealed by the Holy Spirit. See that's why—see, I believe in the universal church. No, I also believe in the local church. I believe in the universal church. I believe that people are part of the bride of Christ, no matter what

denomination you're in, if you truly believe. Now there's some people that say, "Well, I believe in works." Then I don't believe you're part of that universal body. There could be somebody in a liberal denomination, and they truly believe in Christ, and they shouldn't be there, but they're there. They shouldn't be there, but they're there. They're still part of the body of Christ, because you can't lose your salvation. You're not going to grow. You're not going to feed your new nature. You're not going to be happy. But they're still there. It's a gift. We're part of the universal body. Everyone from Pentecost until the Rapture of the Church, when Christ's going to come and take us all up. Romans 5:5, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Look at the next one, 2 Corinthians 1:22, "Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." See that? He sealed us. Once you're saved, you can't ever be lost, but you still got that old nature. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit, but our old nature can still do anything. This birth, see we got to feed this birth. That's why you should be in church. That's why you should read your Bible at home. That's why you should witness. That's why you should pray. You got to build this new birth. And you've got to starve out the old nature. See, that's why you don't need to feed your old nature. Your old nature's been fed enough.

Assignment:

Memorize 2 Corinthians 1:22

QUESTION 20

The new birth does not necessarily guarantee the Holy Spirit. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 21

Only believers in certain denominations are part of the body of Christ. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 22

Some ways of feeding the new nature are: *(Select all that apply.)* Answer: _____

- A. Be in Church
- B. Study the Bible
- C. Witness
- D. Pray

Feed the New, Starve the Old

See, that old nature, you say, "I'm going to do this . . ." Listen, it does not need to be fed. It's been fed enough. If we feed this one, we can subdue this. Remember, it's always present. It'll be present until you get your new bodies. It's just we're sealed [until] the day of redemption. The day of redemption's when we can get our new body, and then we'll have no more sin. I that'll be about as much fun in Heaven as anything, don't you? Oh, the golden streets are going to be a lot of fun. It's going to be fun to know that you don't have to worry about your kids out there driving. About your daughter shopping. You don't have to worry about those dangerous things in life. You don't have to worry about any of those things. You don't have to worry about getting old. You have to worry about Hell. You don't have to worry about anything. That's going to be fun. But boy it's going to be more fun not to have that old nature. It's going to be a lot of fun not to have the old devil. It's going to be a lot of fun. And if you're not saved, you got to be born again. But you do have to be born again to go to Heaven. You got to be born from above. You've got to put your trust, you've got to rely, depend; you've got to trust in Jesus alone to save you. You got to

trust the Messiah. Behold the Man! Behold the God! He's the Messiah, Jesus! You know, if I were to die right now, I now I'm going to Heaven. Oh, I'm not any better than any of you. My old nature is still as bad as it was the day I got saved. I had to keep it subdued. I need to be in church. I need to do what God wants me to do. But listen, Christians, if you don't have everything changed, it takes time. Look at these two verses. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and [that] not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." It's a gift. Salvation's a gift. The Holy Spirit's a gift. God says "Take a gift." See, a gift is a gift, and Jesus says, "I love you so much, and your flesh cannot save yourself." And I'm going to give you a gift. I want you to be born from above." And what you think you can't do—I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. The darker the night, the brighter the light. Jesus, the Light of the World! Jesus, He's the only one. This old preacher will let you down. Everyone in this room will let you down. But Jesus will never let you down. This old nature will flare up and do things you'd not thought possible. Keep trying. Keep plugging. Keep serving.

QUESTION 23

The old nature is going to be present with us until we get our new bodies. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Lesson 36 Answers to Questions

QUESTION 1: True [That's why it is so important that we understand this issue.]

QUESTION 2

- A. If you're truly saved, you'll serve.
- B. Old things are passed away.
- D. The only assurance of salvation is living it.

QUESTION 3

- C. You are saved forever; you can't lose it.

QUESTION 4: False [Salvation is based on Christ's finished work, not any work we could add.]

QUESTION 5: False [It has the meaning of "born from above".]

QUESTION 6: False [We still have it, and therein lies our struggle.]

QUESTION 7: True

QUESTION 8: False [It has nothing to do with baptism.]

QUESTION 9

- A. Born of the Holy Spirit (often referred to as living water)
- C. The natural birth

QUESTION 10: True

QUESTION 11: True

QUESTION 12: False [This statement fails to take into account the fact that you still have the old nature.]

QUESTION 13: True [You will either get better, or you will get worse, but you can't stay the same.]

QUESTION 14: True

QUESTION 15: True [Works can never save.]

QUESTION 16

- C. Not believing in Jesus alone

QUESTION 17: dress up

QUESTION 18: True

QUESTION 19

- A. God will make us part of His body
- B. We'll never lose our salvation
- D. We will have the power to serve God.
- E. The old nature cannot overrule the new nature

QUESTION 20: False [The Holy Spirit is a gift, just as salvation is a gift.]

QUESTION 21: False [All believers around the world are members.]

QUESTION 22

- A. Be in Church
- B. Study the Bible
- C. Witness
- D. Pray

QUESTION 23: True