

The New You, pt.8

8.24.08

Q & A About the Old & New Nature

Summary of Romans 6.1-14

- 2 Cor.5.17 – we have a new heart; we’re saints, no longer sinners; “the glory of God is a man fully alive...living out of his new heart.”
- I am no longer in bondage to sin and its lies. I have been loosed from the power of sin. I no longer have a sinful nature; I am the same place that Adam & Eve experience with God before they sinned & I don’t have to worry about maintaining it. I am new through & through; I am new now & forever.
- 6.3-4: I have placed in a new environment with Christ and it has completely changed my relationship with my old nature. I was in Christ at his death. I didn’t partially die to my old, sinful nature, but rather completely died to it. I was buried to it. The old, sinful nature doesn’t have a hold on me any longer. I still am influenced by the presence of sin, but not the power of sin; The roots of the mighty tree are rotten and all I need is the power of God’s Spirit to blow it to the ground.
- 6.6a: Liberated from the old nature – it is “crucified” (past tense); your experience, feelings, etc have no bearing on this reality. The essence of who you are is new & good b/c of being in Christ.
- 6.6b: Liberated from the body of sin – this includes the brain, which encompasses the mind, will, emotions, thoughts, habits, etc. Sin no longer has power over our body & mind. Illust or a poisonous gas plant changing owners to an oxygen plant (You don’t have two plants in you, but you have an alignment problem with some of the employees.)
- 6.6c: Liberated from the slavery to sin – when we died in Christ, sin’s power lost its grip on us.
- We are back to the place that Adam & Eve had with God before they sinned.
- V.11 – “reckon” – financial term which means “it’s already in the bank. We are dead to sin & alive to Christ.”

- V.12–14: The story of The Prince's Temptation.
- Summary: What was true of Christ – death to sin and now alive to God – is now true of us. I am as dead to sin as Jesus is and I am as alive to God as Jesus is. The only difference between us and Christ is that he has a glorified body and we still remain in unredeemed bodies.

Am I both Old & New?

- The old nature was imparted to me by Adam. It's what made me a sinner. It's what Jesus came to forgive & change. If I don't put my faith in Christ, then that old nature will be what condemns me to Hell. It's not just my sins, but that I am at the core of my person a sinner. (Posterboard with a black heart)
- When I came to Christ, I received a new heart/life (Ez.36.26; John 3; Rom.6.4). This is the 'born again' experience. (Posterboard of a white, new heart) The reason I am accepted by God is b/c he gave me a new heart & made me clean in his sight.
- The heart is the core of who we are. What most people believe is that we have a divided heart. A heart that is both old & new. What happens to the heart when we die? What happens to the old part of me? It doesn't just vaporize, b/c it's eternal. w/o Christ, my old nature goes to hell. Are we saying that the old nature in me goes to hell, and the new nature goes to heaven? Or, the old nature suddenly transforms into the new during my transition from earth to heaven.
- Where are you? Col.2.11f, 20, 3.3; Eph.2.6; Rom.8.30. If we have two natures then that means there's an old, sinful & a new, righteous Scott that are in Christ. (Put black & white heart inside person representing Christ) My sinful, old nature may be welcomed by the devil but it is not welcomed in the sinless, spotless body of Jesus. I can't be "in Christ" and have a sinful nature, b/c that would make him sinful. This is yet another reason why I believe my old, sinful nature was eradicated when I came to Christ.
- I still sin, but it's not coming from my heart. Illustrate further with the new heart & pieces of paper with string that attach to the black

heart; pieces of paper with strings that attach to the white heart. The black flowers have no ability to really grow since there isn't a black heart feeding life into it. If I allow it, my new heart will begin flowing through the black flower & transform it.

Since I am new (and stay new), can I sin as much as I want?

- Ro.6.2, 15. The logic is that since I am new then it doesn't matter how much I sin. I can do whatever I want b/c I am both forgiven & whole.
- Ro.6.15-18 - you've been liberated from slavery to sin to a better way of life.
- Behind this question is the assumption that sinning is a better form of living. It's like the person is saying that crawling is a superior to walking. IOW, since I am now & eternally new in Christ living in disobedience to God is superior to obeying God.
- This question comes sometimes from those who are trying to figure out the scope of their new identity in Christ, but most of the times it comes from those who are living in sin and want to justify their behavior.
- You can do what you want now that you are a new creation in Christ. You'll discover that you'll want to please God with all your life.
- 1 John 3.1-9: The believer will not stay in sin. There will be conviction; they will feel miserable; all kinds of warnings; various disciplines from the Lord; depression; hostility; defensive posture.
- A person who calls himself a believer and continues in the same sin year after year with no repentance is either a liar or so miserable he can hardly stand himself.

Doesn't Ro.7.14-25 express the normal Christian experience?

- A large portion of Paul's audience in Romans were Jewish believers who had been taught since infancy that you please God by obeying the Law.

- It was a difficult transition for them to move from Old Covenant thinking into New Covenant. They were in the transition period and Paul was addressing how to navigate it.
- I believe Paul is addressing either Jewish believers trying to live by the Law/OT mindset or he was describing Jewish unbelievers trying to please God through obedience to the Law. In summary Paul is saying, “I really want to please God by doing the right things, but I can’t because of the power of sin in my life.”
- Despite what many scholars & preachers believe, I don’t believe Paul is describing the normal Christian experience. Even though we might be able to see ourselves in this passage, this isn’t normative for the believer. Romans 8 is the normal Christian life.
- Reasons I don’t believe this is describing the normal Christian life:
 - I am not under God’s law (7.14, 22, 25) – 6.14f, 7.4. The Law is good, but its purpose was to reveal sin not make me right with God.
 - We aren’t bound to the Law – 7.6. I now live in the Spirit.
 - We aren’t slaves to sin (7.14, 23, 25) – 6.6f, 14
 - I am no dominated by sin & death (7.24) – 8.2ff
 - If we are still under the control sinful nature we can’t please God (7.25) – 8.7–9.
 - The state of bondage described in 7.14, 23 is the direct opposite of the release that is described in 6.18, 22, 7.6 & 8.2–6
 - If Rom.7.14–25 is normal Christianity then there is no notion of victorious living in this life. Our only hope is to be removed from this life.
 - This section is describing Jewish believers & unbelievers who haven’t come to understand their newness in Christ and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. It’s not a description of our Christian journey.