

The Christian's Spiritual Enemies—The Sin Nature

Introduction and Review: The battle for our mind

The Christian has three spiritual enemies that put lusts in our minds. The thought process:

- A lust comes from one of our three spiritual enemies.
- Temptation: making the lust our own, a viable idea.
- Trespass: we determine to do it.
- Sin: we do it, an act.

The Flesh or Sin Nature

- A.** The unsaved have no spiritual enemies.
 - a) Satan is the spiritual father of the unsaved (Jn. 8:37).
 - b) The world system works for the advantage of the unsaved (Jn. 15:19-19; 1 Jn. 2:16; Jn. 15:30).
 - c) The world system attempts to govern the flesh (1 Jn. 2:16).
- B.** All humans are born subject to physical death—mortal (Rom. 5:12-14).
- C.** All humans are born spiritually dead: separated from God (Rom. 5:18-19; 6:23).
- D.** All humans are born with a sin nature (Rom. 5:19).
- E.** At salvation Christians do not lose their sin nature (1 Jn. 1:8, 10; Rom. 6:16).
- F.** This Sin Nature is described multiple ways:
 - a) A nature (Eph. 2:2-3).
 - i. Pattern of behavior.
 - ii. Desirous will.
 - b) A sin principle (Rom. 7:23, 25).
 - c) A quality of sin (Rom. 7:25).
 - d) A Sin propensity that inhabits our body (Rom. 7:17).
 - e) The flesh (Rom. 7:18; Gal. 5:19).
- G.** The Sin Nature, *aka* flesh, has strong desires (Gal. 5:16).
- H.** “The Truth” is New Testament doctrine explaining how the Christian overcomes the sin nature. “The Truth”:
 - a) Not in Old Testament (Jn. 1:17).
 - b) Future to Jesus’ earthly ministry (Jn. 8:32).
 - c) What sets one free from the sin nature (Jn. 8:32-34).
 - d) Part of the Gospel for maturity (Gal. 2:5).
 - e) In opposition to the quality of sin (1 Jn. 1:8).
 - f) Precedes fulfilling the New Commandment (1 Jn. 2:4).