

The Promise to Christians that the Sin Nature can be Defeated

Review: The battle for our mind.

- The Christian has three spiritual enemies that put lusts in our minds.
- The primary spiritual enemy is within: the sin nature, *aka* the flesh, sin principle, a propensity to sin, acting as though God does not set restraints.
- Each Christian has a sin nature (1 Jn. 1:8).
- The exactness of the verbal, plenary God-breathed written Word (2 Tim. 3:16).

The Truth: the specific truth to thwart the sin nature.

A. “The”: the article.

- a) Points out an object—specificity.
- b) Draws attention to an object.
- c) Individualizes—this one not that one.
- d) Sometimes refers to something previously mentioned.
- e) English examples.
- f) New Testament examples (Jn. 1:1; 1 Cor. 12:12).

B. “The Truth” is New Testament doctrine explaining how the Christian overcomes the sin nature.

- a) Sets one free from the sin nature (Jn. 8:32-34).
- b) Not in Old Testament (Jn. 1:17).
- c) Future to Jesus’ earthly ministry, not in the Old Testament (Jn. 8:32-34 *cf.* Rom. 6:12, 14, 17).
- d) Part of the Gospel for maturity (Gal. 2:5, *cf.* 1:6, 9-10).
- e) In opposition to a quality of sin (1 Jn. 1:8).
- f) Precedes fulfilling the New Commandment (1 Jn. 2:4).
- g) Basis for ordering one’s lifestyle (3 Jn. 3-4, 8).
- h) Faulty doctrine can subterfuge “The Truth” and is a part of “The Faith” (2 Tim. 2:15-18).
- i) A Christian can gain a full experiential knowledge of “The Truth” (Heb. 10:26).