

Free Indeed; Know Your Enemy Within

Introduction

- All Christians have the same quality and quantity of salvation.
 - Yet Christians grow spiritually at differing rates.
 - At salvation all our problems are not fixed.
 - At salvation the battle for our mind became much more complex.
 - “It’s all psychology!” All action begins with thoughts in the mind.
- A.** The ever presence of the sin nature.
- a) All were constituted sinners by Adam’s trespass (Rom. 5:19, 17).
 - b) The wages of the sin nature (Rom. 6:23).
- B.** The Christian is potentially free from domination of the sin nature (Jn. 8:32-36).
- C.** All Christians still have a sin nature (1 Jn. 1:8, 10).
- a) Terms used for the sin nature.
 - i. Called the flesh, *i.e.* the source from Adam and where it is housed (Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:20).
 - ii. Called the sin principle, *i.e.* product (Rom. 7:23, 18).
 - iii. Called a nature, *i.e.* product (Eph. 2:3).
 - b) The sin nature’s lust and desirous will.
 - i. Lusts precede desire to do something (Jn. 8:44).
 - ii. The sin nature’s lusts become desirous will (Eph. 2:3).
 - iii. Note: desirous will comes from a nature; determinative will is exercised by the person (Mt. 1:19).
- D.** Christians have an opposing new nature.
- a) Share in common the Divine Nature (2 Pet. 1:4).
 - b) New lusts (Gal. 5:17).
 - c) New desirous will (Phil. 2:13).
- E.** The Christians’ spiritual enemy within and its lusts.
- a) Christians are to stop obeying its lusts (Rom. 6:12).
 - b) Its lusts are called “coveting” in the O.T. (Rom. 7:7).
 - c) Law rouses its lusts (Rom. 7:8).
 - d) Divine enabling necessary to overcome its lusts (Rom. 6:13, 16).
 - e) The Holy Spirit is the Person who enables (Gal. 5:16-17).
 - f) The sin nature is defeated in our position (Gal. 5:24).
- F.** Paul’s battle of two natures (Rom. 7:7-25).
- a) Two natures; one person; two desirous wills, one determination.
 - b) In Paul’s own strength the sin nature always wins.