

## IN THE FLESH OR IN THE SPIRIT

### RECOGNIZING THE TWO NATURES WHICH DESCRIBE MEN

*"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit,  
if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you."*

~ Romans 8:9

#### 1. The Believer's Two Natures

- a. Believing the gospel = graduating law school; *but now what do we learn, how to grow?*
- b. Scofield's Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth, chapter 7: "The Believer's Two Natures"
- c. Perhaps his best chapter, where he describes our two natures: old and new.
- d. Right → "In [Paul's] writings alone we find the doctrine, position, walk, ... of the church"
- e. Nothing more important for a believer to learn than who they are in Christ (new nature)

#### 2. Old Nature (of the Flesh)

- a. Nature ~ *def* - Your being, principle of life; character, essence; heredity, how came to be
- b. *"in sin did my mother conceive me"* (Ps 51:5) *"heart...desperately wicked"* (Jer 17:9)
- c. *"From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil..."* – Mark 7:21-23
- d. *"None righteous"* – Rom 3:10-12, not none religious, refined, intelligent, kind, generous
- e. Not talking about your choices, your behavior, your walk, but life without/against God.
- f. The natural man does not receive the Spirit – 1Cor 2:14, "child of wrath" - Eph 2:3
- g. The unbeliever can neither obey God, please God, nor understand God. Rom 8:7-8

#### 3. New Nature (of the Spirit)

- a. Not shower, shave, suit = the old cleaned up, self-improve, doing better, appearance
- b. The new nature must be received (not built up), it is received by regeneration - Ti 3:5
- c. Now made children of God by faith in Christ Jesus - Gal 3:26
- d. The new man is you in Christ, by the Spirit – Gal 2:20, Rom 5:19, 1Co 12:13, 15:45-47
- e. Not all who are born of Adam are children of God, but those born of the Spirit.
- f. The new man is created in righteousness and true holiness - Eph 4:22-24

#### 4. Important Truths About Your New Nature

- a. Nothing more important for a believer to learn than who they are in Christ (new nature)
- b. Found in Rom 5-8 (right after salvation) – In Christ, new man, dead to the law, Spirit.
- c. Your new nature is received through the fellowship of the mystery – Col 1:27, 2Co 5:17
- d. Both natures had in common = your body - Rom 7:24 (but 1Cor 6:19, Ro 6:6, Col 2:11)
- e. Every saved person is in the Spirit, and not in the flesh – Col 3:3, Rom 7:4-7, 8:9-10
- f. What opposes the flesh is not your spirit, but the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor 3:16, Rom 8:13,16
- g. The two natures are contrary to one another – Gal 5:16-17, 35 (next week)