

Some Definitions

July 20, 2008

Definitions

○ Sinful Nature—

- Only in NIV, TLB; not in most Bibles.
- Renders the Greek word *sarx* that is translated as “flesh” in other versions

○ Old Nature—

- Only in TLB; not in most Bibles
- “Old nature” in TLB Ro 7:23 = “law of sin” in the other translations
- “Old nature” in TLB Ro 8:6 = “sinful man” in NIV and “flesh” in the other translations

○ New Nature—

- Only in TLB; not in most Bibles
- “New nature” in TLB Ro 7:22 = “inner self” or “inner being” or “inward man” or “inner man”
- “New nature” in TLB Ro 8:9 = “the Spirit” in other translations
- “New nature” in TLB Eph 4:24 = “righteous and holiness” (or something very similar) in other translations

Definitions

- Old Self—My former identity in Adam (Ro 6:6 Eph 4:22 in NASB, NIV)
- Old Man—My former identity in Adam (Eph 4:24; Col 3:9 in KJV, NKJV)
- New Self—The new creation (2Co 5:17); my new identity in Christ (Eph 4:24; Col 3:10 in NASB, NIV)
- New Man—The new creation (2Co 5:17); my new identity in Christ (Eph 4:24; Col 3:10 in KJV, NKJV)

Definitions

Sin

- Means lots of things (missing the mark, crossing the line, anything contrary to God's will and purpose, breaking a command, unbelief)
- Here, it's the indwelling principle or power that provokes disobedience
 - For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. (Ro 7:11, NIV)
 - As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. (Ro 7:17, 20, NIV)
 - The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. (1 Co 15:56, NIV)

Definitions

Flesh

- Means lots of things (see next slide)
- Here, it's the complex of attributes we had before salvation. It's a part of us in opposition to the spirit. We still have our flesh and it's not getting any better. God is not interested in improving the flesh.
 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. (Jn 6:63, NASB)
 - For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. (Ro 7:18, NASB)
 - For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. (Gal 5:17, NASB)
 - Even though flesh isn't good, it sometimes looks good (Phil 3:3-7) 5

Flesh In The Bible

Greek *sarx* or “σαρξ”

- The substance of the body, whether of beasts or of men, 1 Co 15:39
- The human body, 2 Co 10:3a; Gal 2:20; Phil 1:22
- The totality of all that is essential to manhood (spirit, soul, body), Mt 24:22; Jn 1:13; Ro 3:20
- The holy humanity of Jesus, Jn 1:14; 1 Ti 3:16; 1 Jn 4:2
- The complete person, Jn 6:51-57; 2 Co 7:5; Ja 5:3
- The weaker element in human nature, Mt 26:41; Ro 6:19; 8:3a
- The unregenerate state of men [in the flesh], Ro 7:5; 8:8,9
- The seat of sin in man (not meaning the body), 2 Pe 2:18; 1 Jn 2:16
- The lower and temporary element in the Christian, Gal 3:3; 6:8
- The natural attainments of men, 1 Co 1:26; 2 Co 10:2,3b
- Circumstances, 1 Co 7:28; the externals of life, 2 Co 7:1; Eph 6:5; Heb 9:13
- The outward and seeming, as contrasted with the spirit, Jn 6:63; 2 Co 5:16
- Natural relationship, 1 Co 10:18; Gal 4:23, or marital Mt 19:5

The Bible on Paul's Flesh

Philippians 3:3-7

³for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, ⁴although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: ⁵circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. ⁷But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **Philip.**

3:3-7 NASB

- Paul put no confidence in his flesh (v.3)
- He had the world's best flesh (v.4)
- He had good religious flesh (v.5)
- He was zealous and energetic (v.6)
- He followed the Law blamelessly (v.6)
- These things which he valued previously, he now counted as loss (v.7).

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Connecting Identity and Behavior

Romans 5:19

- In Adam, we were made sinners (cf. Ps 51:5); in Christ, we are made righteous!
- ***We didn't become sinners because we've sinned; we've sinned because we were born sinners!***

Verse	Identity	Behavior
JOH 8:39 "Abraham is our [natural] father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's [spiritual] children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did."	If you were Abraham's [spiritual] children,	then you would do the things Abraham did.
JOH 8:40 As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things.	<i>Not spiritual children of Abraham</i>	you are determined to kill me
JOH 8:41 You are doing the things your own father does	Sons of their father the devil (cf. v.44)	You are doing the things your own father does
JOH 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me"	If God were your Father	you would love me
JOH 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire.	You belong to your father, the devil	you want to carry out your father's desire
JOH 8:47 He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."	He who belongs to God	hears what God says
JOH 8:47 He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."	you do not belong to God.	you do not hear

Italics denote that an inference has been made.

Nature: The Thing That Determines the Type of Fruit Borne

Matthew 12:33-35 (NIV)

33 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit.

34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

35 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

Luke 6:43-45 (NIV)

43 "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

44 Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.

45 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

Nature: The Thing That Determines the Type of Fruit Borne

James 3:9-12 (NIV)

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.

10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

12 My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Nature: The Thing That Determines the Type of Fruit Borne

Luke 15:11-24 (NASB) “The Prodigal Son”

11 And He said, "A man had two sons.

12 "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them.

13 "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.

14 "Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished.

15 "So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 "And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving *anything* to him.

17 "But when **he came to his senses**, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!

18 **'I will get up and go to my father**, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight;

19 **I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'**"

20 "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him*, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

2 Peter 2:22 (NIV) “The Prodigal Pig”

22 Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

Nature: The Thing That Determines the Type of Fruit Borne

Galatians 5:16-26 (NASB)

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

19 Now the **deeds of the flesh** are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.