



Shiloh Messenger

April 2018

Divine Nature or Sinful Nature?

“Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit (Divine Nature). So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Holy Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace (Divine Nature). For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will. That’s why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God,” Romans 8:3-5.

In the month of April, we Christians celebrate Resurrection Sunday. There are others however, who celebrate that day as Easter. It is more than a holiday; **“That Day”** ushered in **“New Life, A New Nature.”**

Since “The Fall,” humanity has had a sin nature. A nature that is hostile to God (*Rom. 8:7*). God has always been compassionate, merciful, slow to anger and abounding in Love. He has never changed in His love toward humanity (*Num. 14:18*). In the Old Testament the Law was given to reveal man’s sinful nature and provided forgiveness thru blood sacrifices (*Lev. 4:20*). But that system did not repair the breach in relationship that was lost at “The Fall.” Only a perfect sacrifice could atone for man’s sin. In *Galatians 4:4* The Apostle Paul writes, ***“But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law to pay the penalty for our sin.”***

The New Covenant brings revelation that believers have not been redeemed by the blood of bulls and goats but with “The Precious Blood of Jesus Christ” (*1 Peter 1:18-20*). As born-again believers we have a Glorious Covenant (*2 Cor. 3:8-11*) but if we do not have revelation of “The Glory” it contains we will continue to struggle with consciousness of our old sin nature. It seems to be ingrained in us to lust for the things that appeal to our carnal nature. Satan who is a strategist knows how to tempt us with worldly passions by appealing to our five senses (seeing, touching, smelling, seeing and tasting). *1 Peter 2:11* says, ***“Dear friends, I warn you as temporary residents and foreigners to keep away from worldly passions that wage war against your very souls.”***

This is a warning for all of us to abstain from worldly passions which arouse our sin nature to be gratified. But how do we refrain from sinning against our wonderful and Great God who desires to be encountered as a Good, Good Father? After all what kind of Father would require us to live holy and righteous lives but did not provide supernatural power to overcome our sin nature? The answer is what Jesus promised in *Luke 24:49*, ***“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”***

In my early years of preparation for ministry calling I listened and studied great Theology but became frustrated with the war in my head concerning the desires of my flesh and a desire to live a righteous life. I continually failed in my carnal (mental) application of the Word of God to overcome my sinful passions for this world. Read what the great Apostle Paul wrote in *Romans 7:18-20*. ***“For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.”*** The great Apostle also failed in his attempt to carry out the righteous requirement of the Law. His testimony did not end there in frustration, but concluded with a glorious revelation of The Ministry of The Holy Spirit. In the very next chapter revelation comes to him, that victory is assured when the believer taps into “The Divine Enabler,” The Holy Spirit.

In my opening reference scripture, I used *Romans 8:5-8*. These verses and many others reveals to us God’s Life Source for manifesting Divine Nature. Paul’s Divine directive assures us that if we allow The Holy Spirit to control our minds, we will live a life of peace because of Divine perspective (***“But letting the Holy Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace” V.,6.***)

These powerful verses give Light into living a powerful, confident life free of demonic inspired condemnation. The Holy Spirit is “The Divine Enabler” who demonstrates Grace (*Power*) thru yielded vessels to serve humanity in The Love of God. Paul instructs us in all his letters that The Holy Spirit is “The Light” (*Glory*) living in us to Superintend The Word of God. *2 Corinthians 4:7* says, ***“We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.”***

In conclusion, our Heavenly Father did not leave us as orphans (*abandon & alone, Jn. 14:18*). But gave us a new nature in which to live as sons and daughters (*Rom. 8:14*). We have no excuse for murmuring and complaining. Our Heavenly Father loves us and has provided everything we need in the finished work of Jesus Christ. His death, burial and resurrection has provided a new nature for us to walk in (*2 Cor. 5:17*). *Romans 6: 3-4* describes how we have obtained our New Nature. ***“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Divine Nature).*** God is Good!!

Update: New Classroom

Please pray about what The Lord would have you to do about some important items that need to be purchased for our new classroom. These items are tables, chairs (32) & electronic equipment for teaching (sound system, screen & projector). The approximate cost of all of these much needed items is: \$ 8,200.00. Debbie & I are very thankful for having such awesome brothers & sisters in Christ, who see the fruit of what Jesus is doing at Shiloh and sow into it.

We love all of you, blessings multiplied!!
Rocky & Debbie Fondren

(Shiloh Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 charitable organization. All financial gifts are tax deductible at the end of the year)

Relief Work In Puerto Rico

Cory Schwartz, our Outreach Coordinator, along with Anthony Huerta, a graduate of Shiloh went to Puerto Rico last December to help with relief efforts after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico. Upon their return trip from P.R. the Shiloh team began planning a return trip with more resources (skilled labor & finances). We succeeded in setting up a return trip to Puerto Rico in March. The goal for this trip was to build a house for an elderly man, named Julio, who lost his house in the hurricane. On the return trip the team consisted of 3 Shiloh graduates, Cory, Anthony, Ellis Slocum, and 2 Shiloh interns, Sam Griffin and Dawson Kite; plus a few other volunteers. Supplies were scarce in Puerto Rico, so Anthony returned in advance of team Shiloh to help secure some of the building materials and tools needed. The team was successful in purchasing all building supplies needed for the construction project and blessed YWAM P.R. with the tools for any future projects. Youth with A Mission (YWAM) from San Juan, were the main contacts from the area and collaborated with us for the project. The team made efforts to



finish on time by working sun-up to sun-down, but had to extend their time by one day. However, this did not postpone the party the missionaries planned in advance for Julio and his neighbors. The celebration was a mixture of cultures as the residents attempted to teach flatfooted Texans and left footed Louisianans the Salsa. The night ended with the missionaries praying over the residents and declaring Jesus' authority over the neighborhood. Once the house was completed, the team went to Ponce, P.R. to strengthen relationships with the host church from the December trip. There they aided in relief efforts in cutting some fallen trees off houses. The Pastor threw a get-together with the young adults from the church and Shiloh facilitated the meeting. Always a powerful testimony Shiloh graduates bring when testifying of the freedom Jesus Christ has made in their lives. We would like to thank all the wonderful people who supported Shiloh Ministries in our relief efforts to hurting people in Puerto Rico. God bless you all!!

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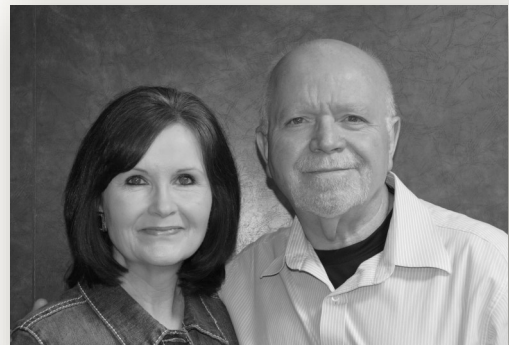
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