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The Replaced Life We cannot Have Two Natures at Once

We are either joined to Satan before Christ, but now through the Cross, joined to Christ. But, we never, never had an independent nature of our own!

What is a nature? Webster says: "An inner force or the sum of such forces in an individual". It is our Spirit center and life, or our power source.

The lie of Two Natures

- **Rom.7:1-4** We can only be married to one wife at a time
- **1John4:4** He that is in this world, and He that is in us
- **1 John4:6** Spirit of truth, and Spirit of error
- **1 John3:10** Child of the devil, child of God
- **John8:44** Satan was our father
- **2 Peter1:14** We are partakers of divine nature
- **Col.3:9** We **have** put off the old man

The Lie of Two Natures

I have heard it taught for years that we Christian still have the old nature, and we have to fight daily to maintain our equilibrium in Christ. However, we can never hope to get rid of this monstrous old nature in this lifetime. They say, there is a white dog in us and at the same time, there is a black dog in us. It depends on which one that "*we*" feed the most. Who wins the battle? Some years ago, I actually owned a small white Poodle and a large black Doberman Pincher. In my case, the small white Poodle won because she was the oldest and, believe it or not, bossed the Doberman around. That is fun for me to think about, but this kind of erroneous teaching is very serious, and keeps us Christians in bondage always striving to maintain the power of the White dog.

Some years back, several friends of mine and myself went to Memphis, Tennessee to visit a huge church there. We, three house wives were sitting in the office of a well known and respected minister in that area. As I shared these union truths, the minister stopped me. "Are you saying that you believe that Christians today can really experience union with Christ and live without condemnation?" Do you think that we, Christians can really get out of Romans 7 and experience the freedom of Romans 8?" I said, "yes I do." He went on to say, "Don't you know that 98% of all teachers, preachers, and theologians don't believe that we will ever be free from the "Old Nature" until we are in Heaven?" "Yes, I do know that false consensus, but it is not what the Bible says, and is therefore not true." The minister was amazed at the audacity of us women. So was I!

Why would God put Romans 8 in the Bible if it were only a carrot on a stick, dangling there to tease us with an impossible freedom when in reality, we can only have that kind of freedom in the eternal future? That makes God cruel. The minister was stopped, but not convinced. Someday this truth will be common among God's people but for now there are still lots of strife when these insights are presented.

The liberating truth in Romans 7 clearly reveals that the human is not the culprit. Satan is the culprit, disguised as a big "Independent I" able through self-effort and self-keeping to be right with God. I always say that Romans 7 is a "lie"! It is truth about Paul's experience, but it is a lie concerning what Paul is believing about himself. The fact is that "The Old Man was and is crucified with Christ, in order that the body of sin might be done away with" (Romans 6:6). If you don't believe that fact, but instead give reality to your tug-of-war experience, then you would think that it is not done away with. The tug-of-war experience is happening because we are being deceived by Satan to believe that 'our own human power' is failing to conquer sin and we ought not to fail, but even try harder. That makes me falsely think that my humanity is in itself the evil culprit because it should be holy and good, but it can't. So around and around I go spinning on the wheel of failure, frustration and defeat. The whole premise of that kind of thinking is based on a big lie, or I should say, "THE BIG LIE."

The human is a derivate being, therefore deriving our nature from the one who indwells us, because the human has no nature of its own. What does the word *NATURE* mean? The Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament, written by E. W. Bullinger, says, Nature is the "generative and productive power i.e. the essence." Only a deity Spirit can have generative and productive powers which the human can only derive from, and not have its own. The human vessel was created to derive its nature or power source from the one who indwells it, either Satan or Christ, and not from itself. It is impossible for the human by itself to have and be its own generative power.

So does the Christian still have an evil human nature able to produce evil? If the human has a nature able to produce evil, then there is a strong possibility that we could have the power to produce our own good. Then why would we need a Savior at all? I think that we have successfully answered that question. The human cannot contain but one deity nature at a time. We humans have only one spirit to join with one deity Spirit making the marriage of "two becoming one being." The evil human nature supposed in Roman 7 is Satan disguised as a good and performing me, and is not who we are.

No-Nature of Our Own

"The full reality of our death in Christ to being "the old man," and our full establishment in Christ as the "new man," is wonderfully being proclaimed. But the one point I would like to talk over is whether most teachers really go far enough? If we leave the old and new natures as being something in us humans, then that leaves the implication that **we humans** have those natures, thus laying the emphasis on our own self-consciousness of having been the old man and now the new man.

But we see the necessity (and consequently total liberation) of ridding ourselves of the concept of us humans having a nature of our own, and only being from eternity in God's purpose the means of Him expressing Himself in His son's forms. Yet in that final total paradox in which though we are totally God expressers, we are equally totally self-expressers. We see this, of course, supremely in our Last Adam, and Elder Brother, who always knew Himself as inwardly nothing but an expresser of His Father, in word, nature (the Dove) and thus so plainly saying so in those John quotes (5:19&30). And equally refusing to become an expresser of Satan, taking forty full days to settle that! And he finalized who He was by saying, "If you see me,

you see the Father.” And thus “as He is, so are we in this world” and we say of ourselves in our new birth that we are “partakers of His nature – “the divine nature” – II Peter 1:4. That means it is **He** living in us, as us, and the producer of “the fruit of the Spirit.” So it is only our “New Nature” in the form of Him being Himself in our form, and it can be misleading to speak of it as “our new nature.”

By “nature” we do not mean our basic human being with all its forms and potential, our self-hood of will, emotion, consciousness, etc. We mean, not the **quantity** of our being, but the **quality** and that’s not we, but the deity-nature expressed by our humanity. All the biblical symbols of our humanity point to the fact that we are “vessels, but it is not the nature of the liquid it contains, whether expressing wrath or mercy. We are “branches,” but we express and reproduce **the nature of the Vine**-true or false. So as temples indwelt by and manifesting the deity in it, our bodies\temples are indwelt by of which Spirit? We are slaves of which owner (Rom.6)-, and wives of which husband? (Rom. 7) and so on.

Thus we humans express the nature and being of the deity who indwells us, (Spirit of Truth, or Spirit of error) (John 4:4-6). It is by our free choice that identifies with the one or the other, and spontaneously manifest Him in our humanity. Jesus said that plainly of our “your father the devil, and **the lust of your father** ye will do”(John 8:44) – not our lust, but his, which we spontaneously did. So now of the fruits of the Spirit we spontaneously do.

This we understand to be the secret of our liberty to function as humans of (Rom. 6:16&20). It is much the same principle as the computer with its vast potentials, but only as it is programmed; or the way we freely practice the profession we first committed ourselves to attain, and which takes us over; then we practice them and call ourselves by its name – doctor, carpenter, etc. So we all call ourselves Christians as practicing Christ, or indeed formerly “Satanic” practicing Satan!

Therefore there has been no “nature” in our humanity – spirit, soul, body – but only its right or wrong use by its deity owner or false so-called deity invader. But here is where we have to learn and find our deliverance from our deceived presented. Satan was himself self-deceived in regarding himself as an independent self, when there is no such thing in the universe as independence (for he has always been, as one of God’s creatures, God’s convenient negative agent) and so, when Satan, as the “Spirit of error” took us over, he infected us with his own deception, that virus of independence, and made us think we do our own things, when we really are doing his – “lust of your father ye do.” It is this which by his deceit (his special characteristic in Rev. 12:9, and important comment on Satan) has tricked us into thinking we have and practice our own nature. Thus, as redeemed people, we have our severe Rom. 7 problem, where it says we are deceived (7:11) and we have been duped into thinking it is our jealousies, hates, lusts covetousness (Paul’s special problem). Also we do not realize that our very self-efforts not to respond to these such as Paul’s “when I would do good” (7:21) are equally the most subtle forms of Satan-sin.

For it is the independent self basic quality of Satan’s fall and thus nature. And that is why Paul’s special revelation (presumably when he was in Arabia (Gal. 1:17)) gives us the secret of our deliverance in his II Cor. 5:14-21 revelation, of the meaning of the body death of Christ, distinct from His body-death, where His body representing our expressed sin-spirit in it (“made sin”) and thus that when that body died, out went Satan sin-spirit and his nature, and in that body-resurrection his own Spirit of Truth took its place, and thus in our bodies. And so nothing has ever been

wrong with our humanity, soul-body, for it never had a nature of its own faith-committal from expressing that Satan nature of self-effort and its effects, and now equally spontaneously expresses Christ's other-love nature.

We see this to be the secret of liberated living, when we can accept our human selves, not as tainted in any way in themselves, but formerly stolen and misused, and now regained and rightly used, by Him who gloriously created us to be fixed as His expressions. We are now free from the delusion of independent self, as if there is something either bad or good in our humanity. And thus freed from false suspicions of our reactions under temptations, as if something is wrong with us or our reactions, and we are able to accept all temptations as the inevitable privileged consequences of our still continuing in this Satan-infected world to be a light to our former fellow-captives, and thus rightfully within range of Satan's arrows. Instead of resisting them as good opportunities of replacing them by who we now are Christ as us; and thus they are useful negatives through which He, the positive as us, can continually reveal Himself. Temptations and trials which we once regarded as bad and dangerous liabilities are now adventurous assets.¹

¹ No-nature by Norman P. Grubb.