



Men's Discipleship Class – Week 10
November 29, 2018

Verses:

Genesis 2:16-17

Genesis 3:1-6

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:18-19

Romans 6:6-8

Romans 7:21-25

Romans 6:11-12

Romans 12:1-2

Galatians 5:16, 24

I grew up and the argument that I always heard was that I had two natures in me. I had an old nature I inherited from Adam. I had the new nature of the Holy Spirit. Now they fight with each other. The story I was told that just galvanized me growing up until I examined the scripture was the illustration about the missionary that went to a Native American reservation. He led the chief to Christ. He came back a year later and asked the chief what it is like being a Christian. The chief said it is like I have two dogs in me. A black dog and a white dog fight each other all the time. He asked which one wins. The chief said well it is the one I feed the most. I grew up with that in my head. I have two natures in me. I have to feed one by going to church, reading my Bible, and praying. If I feed that one, he will overwhelm the other one. The problem is when you come to the scripture that is the antithesis of what the Bible teaches. It does not teach anything like that. You do not have two natures. You have one.

Look with me in Genesis 2:16-17. We are going to cover a little bit of ground. We are going to go all the way to the Old Testament. We will then go back to the New Testament. Listen to what God says to Adam and Eve.

*16*And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, *17*but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

How many natures does Adam have right now? One, right? If you are Adam, you have one nature right now. You are in this garden and can eat from any tree. If you eat from this tree right here, you are going to die. What is your emotional reaction? Let me explain something before we get started. Emotions are always neutral. They follow perception or reality. They are neutral though.

There is nothing right or wrong about them. They can shift like that. I remember when I was dating my wife I was staying up one night. She and her mother had gone to bed. I am staying up with her dad watching this old John Wayne WWII movie where John is flying these planes. So, my father-in-law started talking to me about how he flew in the war and all the things that happened. I am like ‘dang, this is great.’ He shared his heart with me. We are bonding. I get up the next morning and go into where Mrs. Proctor is cooking breakfast. I told her that the stuff her husband did when he flew in the war was amazing. She never even looked around at me. She said that he never flew in the war. Emotions shifted quickly from ‘I’m touched’ by my father-in-law to ‘I’m going to kill him.’ Emotions are neutral. They are going to follow what you believe or what you think is true.

Adam and Eve’s emotions toward this tree are neutral. They are going to follow what you believe or what you think is true. Now, Adam and Eve’s emotions toward this tree are fear. They are going to be like you looking at a rattlesnake versus a Labrador puppy. If I look at a Labrador puppy, I am going to buy it and take it home to train it to do whatever. With a rattlesnake, my first reaction is jump back, pull the pistol, and kill it. So, you are going to look at this tree like we do with rattlesnakes. It is one you are going to fear. You are going to be nervous about it. You are not going to walk over and stand by it. Your emotions are going to be negative toward the tree. They are going to positive toward everything else which is just the simple reaction to what you know is true.

Look in Genesis 3:1-6.

1Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” **2**And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, **3**but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” **4**But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. **5**For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **6**So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

What has happened right here? What is her attitude toward the tree now? It is totally positive. Has she sinned yet? This is not a trick question, okay. It is not like Bible school where the teacher asks the kids what is furry, has weird teeth, bushy tail, eats acorns, and lives in a tree? The little guy looked at his buddy and said, “I’m thinking squirrel, but I am going with Jesus.” This is not a trick question, alright. Has she sinned yet? No. Have her emotions changed toward the tree? Absolutely. Her emotions just shifted. Why have they shifted? They have shifted because now she thinks this thing is going to be a blessing. The change in her belief is what is altered absolutely what has happened. Her emotions have changed not because of some inner change inside her. Her emotions toward this tree have changed because of her perception of what the tree is. God’s perception she no longer believes. She holds God’s perception. Her emotion toward the tree will be negative. Now she has begun to embrace Satan’s perception, and her emotion toward the tree is positive. As a result of that, she now sins. She took of this fruit, ate, and also gave some to her husband who is with her. He ate. Now, they immediately die. The eyes of both of them are open. They knew they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin clothes.

They immediately die. There is the change. Now, prior to this they only have one nature which is in obedience to God. Now, they have a nature that unfortunately we inherit.

Go to Romans 5:18-19. These verses are why Romans 3:23 is still true.

23for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

This is why these are still true. Listen to Romans 5:18-19.

18Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

So, what Adam did brought sin to us and brought death to us. One act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

19For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

So, he says two things. He says we inherit both death and sin. We now have one nature. We still have one. That nature is now going to cause us to sin, which is going to cause us to die. Sooner or later you are going to sin. What you realize is that this is now inside you. You learn that when you have children. You have kids in the nursery. You get a kid and they are born. They are wonderful. You will die for them immediately. They are so cute. They are so great. Then you take them to the nursery and at some point the teacher calls you and says, "Listen, little Johnny has been taking the toys from everybody else in the room. When they try to take one from him, he takes a toy and knocks them in the head." You are embarrassed. You are hoping that he did not learn that at home because you do that to your wife each night at supper in front of him. You are pulling the food away and bopping her on the head. So, I am assuming he did not learn that at home. Where does he learn that? He did not learn that from anybody. It is now his gift. He is good at sin. He has inherited that. He did not learn that from anybody. It is now in him. As a result of that, he is going to die. This now is what we inherited from what Adam and Eve did. Had they not sinned, they would have passed on a holy nature to their children. We would not be where we are today. They did sin, and now we inherit a nature that makes us sin and causes us to die which is why Romans 3:23 is still true and will be true until we die.

This is our problem. We have a nature that we inherited. So, we now have a different day. Look at Romans 6. I want you to read carefully what it says. Look at Romans 6:6-8.

6We know that our old self

What is our old self? It is this nature that we inherited from Adam. It is our old self. It is the Adam nature. There are all sorts of phrases for it in the Bible. It is a part of us that is committed to sin and death. Now, here is what he says. Listen carefully.

...our old self was crucified with him

Now stop it right there. If my old nature is crucified, what happens on the cross? You die. 'Crucified with him'. Who is that? Jesus. So, when is the crucifixion occur to my old nature? When I come to Christ. Alright, here is what he says.

...our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to

nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Here I am enslaved to sin. I cannot stop this from happening. Even if you are like Paul and grew up as a Jew and you want to do what God says, at some point this is going to overcome you. We are going to look at this in a second. Now, that has been removed.

7For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Drop over to Romans 7:21-25. This is where we get confused. Listen to what he says.

21So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Listen to what he says. He says when he was a Jew he craved and wanted to do what God told him because he had grown up as a Jew. He discovered in his members that he could not do that. He needed deliverance from this. He got it in Jesus. He gave Paul the deliverance. Here is the basis of that deliverance. Now, go back to Romans 6 and look at 11 and 12. Listen to what he says.

11So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

Now you are totally different. I want you to understand this. When Adam and Eve are in the garden, God is inside them. Satan is outside. Their conversation was Satan. He comes in to the land, but he is not inside them. After they sin, Satan is inside. Now, God is outside. They do not have any relationship. It is over. When you become a Christian, God is not back inside through the Holy Spirit. Satan is now again outside. There is the distinction. God is inside them. His nature is in them. Satan is outside. He has to talk to them. He cannot control them from the inside. When I inherit Adam's nature though, Satan is now inside me. He controls me from within. God is on the outside speaking to me. He is controlling me from within which is why when Jesus said, 'If you sin, you are a slave to sin.' He takes me anywhere he wants me to go. Now in Christ, God is back on the inside in the person of the Holy Spirit. Satan is now on the outside

Why do I still sin, and why do I still struggle with that sin? For the same reason Adam and Eve do. Prior to coming to Christ, the battle that I am fighting is myself and Satan. Now in Christ, I am not fighting myself any more. I have been delivered from that. Now I am just fighting, and here is the key, the whisperings of the enemy versus what the Holy Spirit has written down. That is the key.

Now look at Romans 12:1-2. Slide over to Romans 12.

1I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God,

Which is Romans 1 – 11.

to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your

spiritual worship. 2Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

He says that he wants your mind renewed. Adam and Eve did not need their mind renewed. There was nothing wrong with it. Now, we need it renewed because we have been restored back to Adam and Eve. Here is the deal. I do not have two natures. I have one. The reason I sin though now is before Christ, I could not control it. Satan was in control of me. Now, I do not have to sin. The reason I do sin is because now I have a choice between the whispers of Satan or what God has written down. Now. That is their struggle. Satan talks to them. They have God's nature. Now I have God's nature renewed in me. The battle is now between what Satan whispers to me versus what God says to me and whether I believe it. I thus release the Holy Spirit's power in my life. Remember we talked about the fact that God is going to do to me what he did to Peter. He is going to break me where I am dependent on the Holy Spirit. I believe in the Holy Spirit. When I am then dependent and rely on him and I believe what God says in the word instead of what Satan whispers to me, I will not sin.

Let me show you exactly about what I am talking. Christian men have affairs just like lost men do. The lost man has an affair because he cannot be controlled. He cannot stop it. Satan takes a lost man anywhere he wants to take him. A lost man sees another woman. Inside him comes this craving for her. Emotionally, it begins to control him to where he is involved with her. Christian men have affairs but for a totally different reason. You do not have an affair because there is something welling up in you that you cannot control. No. No. No. No. No. Your emotions turn toward her because Satan whispers to you and says that she respects you better, she is prettier, she will be better in bed, she will do this and this and this better than your wife does, and she will treat you better. She is treating you better. So, as you begin to believe those things, what happens? Now, my emotions move toward her. They are not moving toward her from the inside. They are moving because I am believing what Satan is telling me. Let me just say one thing to you guys. If the enemy begins to whisper to you that somebody would be better for you than your wife, and they treat you better, they are nicer to you, and they are prettier, let me tell you something. The reason those women are treating you better is because they do not live with you. If they lived with you, they would not be treating you any different than your wife does. Probably if your wife is a believer and they are not, your wife is going to treat you way better than they would. There is no point in buying what the enemy says. I am telling you he is a liar. When I believe the whisperings of the enemy, what happens? My emotions turn toward her. I begin to think that I have a problem inside. No. You have a problem in your mind. You have got to have it renewed. You come back to the scripture which says to honor the wife of your youth. In marriage, the bed is undefiled. You have made a covenant and want to honor the glory of God. As I begin to believe those things, it renews my mind. When my mind is renewed toward what God has said, those desires go away immediately. The desires in the life of a Christian follow what you believe. The desires in the life of a lost man follow what Satan wants you to do. He is in total control of you. He is not in control of you anymore. What desires you have going the wrong way are based on what you believe Satan says or what you believe God says.

There are two things you have to wrestle with that I do not think Adam had to wrestle with. There are two things. Number one is what I call a memory index. You have something Adam did not wrestle with. You remember the times that sin is pleasurable. I am just going to get straight here. If you go to a porn site and it excites you, you respond to that with masturbation. It brings you a great passionate moment. That is locked in you now. So, when the enemy begins to whisper to you, not only do you think 'Man, it would be great to go to that porn website.' but now you have a memory problem. You remember it was good. You now have to fight both of these things. Adam

only fought the whisper.

The second thing is you have Satan's whispers which are many, but God's word is one time. God thinks he is God. He thinks you are not. So, he makes a clear declarative statement. He is not going to repeat himself. He is not going to whisper to you all day to not do this or this. The enemy is going to come to you all day and whisper. You have to come to the point in the power of the Holy Spirit you lock down on what God says and the enemy cannot nail you. Let me show you. Paul addresses this in Galatians. Go to Galatians 5. This is another misunderstood passage. Listen to what he says. Galatians 5. If you are in Romans, hang a right. If you get to Ephesians, hang a left. Listen to what he says.

16But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Now it is interesting. There are two Greek words in the New Testament for no. One Greek word means not a chance in Sheol. The other Greek word means maybe. When you put them together in the Greek, they mean absolutely impossible. Those negatives are together in the Greek here. οὐ (no) μὴ (not). So, he says walk by the Spirit and it is impossible for you to gratify the desires of the flesh. You say, 'well, there you go' I have the desires of the flesh. The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit. The desires of the Spirit are against the flesh. These are opposed to one another to keep you from doing what you want to do. There it is. I have this inward battle between the old nature and new nature. No. Look in verse 24.

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

How is it if I am crucified it that it is resurfacing? It resurfaces, not from within, but from without when I believe what Satan tells me. My perception creates new emotions that should not be there and do not have to be there. So, we are on the very same thing. The bottom line here is God was inside Adam and Eve. He was outside. When you are lost, Satan is on the inside. God is on the outside. Now, the Holy Spirit has been returned to you so God is on the inside. Satan is on the outside. You have to decide whether you are going to believe what Satan whispers to you or whether you are going to believe what the Holy Spirit empowers you to do. You have one nature. Your emotions will follow whatever you believe.

We are not like the Indian chief on the reservation. We do not have two things we are fighting. You are going to spend your life controlled either by what God says or what the enemy whispers. This is now your battle zone. It is not old versus new nature. It is whether you believe what Satan says or whether you believe what God says. You now have in the power of the Holy Spirit the ability to say no to his whispers. Whereas, prior to coming to Christ, you do not have any ability to say no to what Satan tells you. He takes you to wherever you want to go. The Bible says if you are sinner, you are a slave to that sin. The reason he has certain lost people, for example, who do not have affairs is because he wants them to become arrogant enough that their pride keeps them from coming to Christ. He has some people have affairs because he wants to chain them in a way that they will not believe God can forgive them. Everything he does is to keep people from Christ. The bottom line is that now in the power of the Holy Spirit you have the ability to believe what God says. If you will believe what God says, your emotions will never turn the wrong way. I think, for example, we will talk later about this when we go over the role of the husband and the role of the wife and the role of a parent. In all the years of pastoring, pastors many times when the counsel

women who are hurting, they get in trouble there. There are numerous affairs. The reason is, again, because they get in here, and this lady is hurting. They feel compassion for her. She is driven to the pastor because he is listening to her. Her husband does not listen to her. Pretty soon they believe this person will make them better. I am telling you. If you lock down on the truth of scripture that you love the wife of your youth, she is greatest thing God has given you besides Jesus. If you lock those truths down, you are not going to look at anybody else. You start looking at anybody else when you start believing what Satan says. It is not that you crave another woman, it is that you believe what he has whispered to you instead of what God said. Again, God makes a statement one time. Satan whispers all day long. You have to come to a place where you go 'God said it', 'I'm in', 'It is settled', or 'I believe'. Once you allow yourself to follow these whispers because of the memory index for example, he is going to take you down. This is why we do not have to sin, but we will because he is always going to nail us at some point.