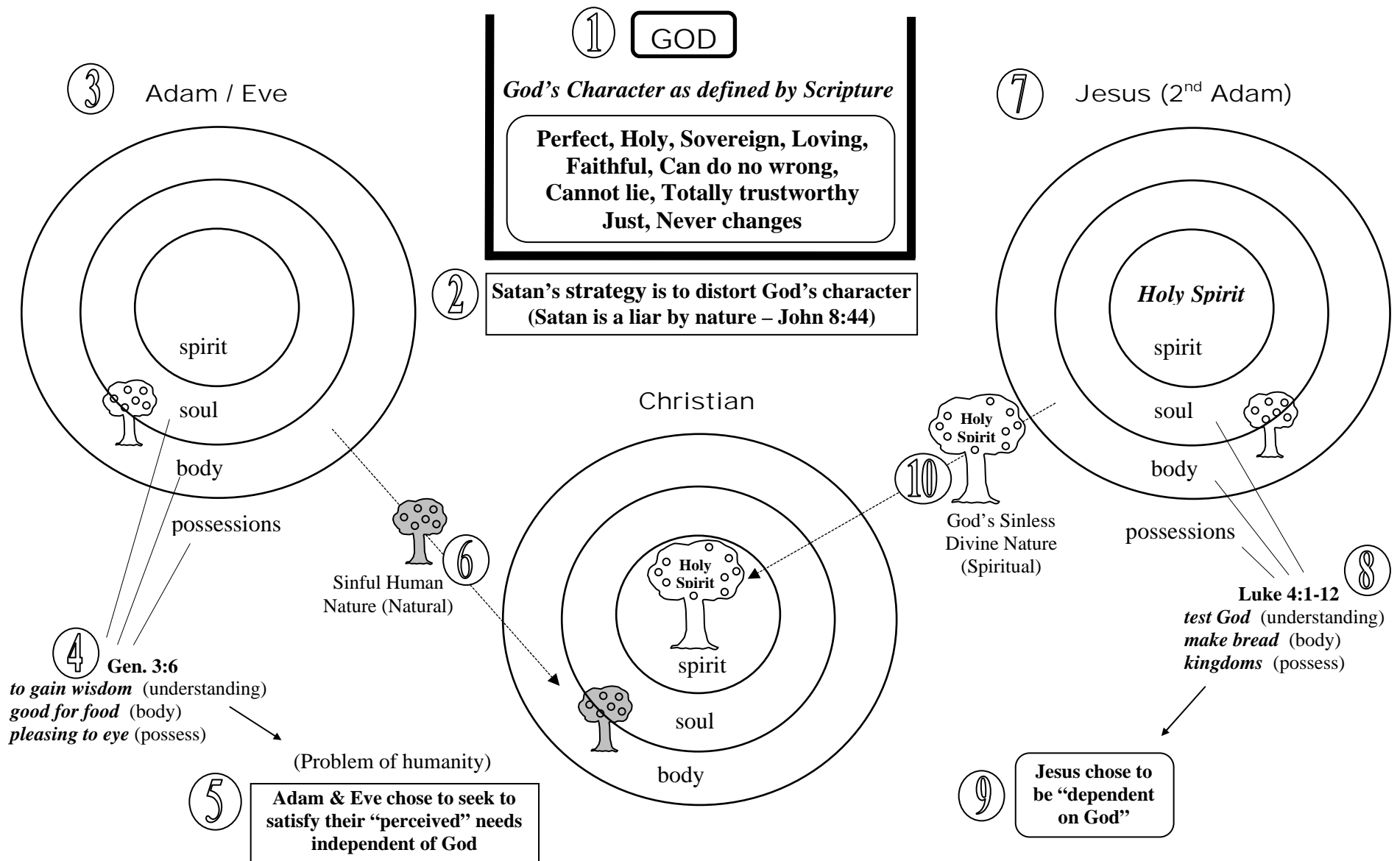


HOW I RECEIVED MY HUMAN NATURE & GOD'S DIVINE NATURE



ORIGIN OF THE TWO NATURES - GUIDE

The main purpose of this lesson is to help clarify the events which have led to our present condition as a **believer having two natures**. A number of foundational Biblical principles will be introduced which should help us to more easily understand other truths as they are presented in subsequent lessons.

① **The Character of God** --- It is important to understand the significance of Biblical terms that describe His attributes. His attributes will be reinforced, as we allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us **through His written Word**. **IMPORTANT: In this lesson, the main purpose of presenting certain attributes of God is to demonstrate how reasonable it is to trust Him.** As unbelievers we were accustomed to trusting in ourselves, but as believers we need to form the habit of trusting God in our daily decisions. Reason out that if God's character is as portrayed in the Bible, then it is very **logical** to trust Him completely, and very **illogical** to not trust Him. There is **no** reasonable logic for not yielding to Him. A major reason for distrusting God is our tendency to impute to God **our** character. If God were like us then it would be quite **reasonable** to distrust Him.

② **Satan's strategy** --- is to persuade people that God is **not trustworthy**, by undermining their confidence in **God's character**. **Example:** In Genesis 3:1-5 he sought to instill doubt, insinuating that God is a liar, suggesting that God did not have their best interest at heart, and implying that He was withholding that which in some way would be good for them. If God did not love them, how then could He be trusted?

Gen. 3:1-5 *Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, **has God said**, 'You shall not eat from **any** tree of the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" The serpent said to the woman, "**You surely will not die!** "For God knows that in the day you eat from it **your eyes will be opened**, and you will be **like God, knowing** good and evil."*

③ When Adam and Eve were created they were made **perfect**, as was all creation. They were complete and **totally** satisfied, not lacking in any way. Everything they did was in total harmony with God's character. Death did **not exist** before that time.

Rom. 5:12 ... just as **through one man** sin entered into the world, and **death through sin**, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—
1 Cor. 15:21-22 For since by a man came **death**, ... **in Adam all die**, ...

④⑤ Adam and Eve believed Satan's lie about God's character and ate the fruit, choosing to pursue self-satisfaction "**independent**" of God. The choice to live independent from God was evident in **three areas**:

1. The **human understanding** (to gain wisdom)
2. The **appetites of the body** (good for food), and
3. **Possessions** (pleasing to the eye).

(Temptations also fall into one of these three areas.) It is important to see this “**predisposition toward independence**” as the “**root**” **problem of humanity** and one of the driving forces behind the global and individual resistance to God.

Gen. 3:6 *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 desirable **to make one wise**, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.*

⑥ Every person born into the **human race** inherits the sinful human nature (*pictured as a dark tree*) of Adam, **through their biological father**. Consequently, every human is born with a **disposition of resistance** toward God.

Gen. 5:3 ... Adam ... became the father of a son in **his own likeness**, according to **his image**,
Gal. 5:16-23 ... For **the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit**, ...

⑦ Jesus was born into the human race, but **without** a sinful human father. As the **second Adam**, He was born with the same **sinless** human nature that Adam had before he fell. The righteous character of Jesus, as seen in His life, is what God had originally intended for Adam.

1 Cor. 15:45-46 ... “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The **last Adam** became a **life-giving spirit**. ...

Rom. 5:19 For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made **sinner**s, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made **righteous**.

⑧⑨ Jesus was tempted in the **same three areas** as Adam, but Jesus chose to entrust Himself into God’s care instead of believing Satan’s enticement to seek to live independent of God.

⑩ **Upon believing**, the new believer is born into the **spiritual race**, and receives the divine nature in **the Person of the Holy Spirit**. **Important:** The sinful human nature can **never** be improved. (See Gal. 5:17 below)

John 3:3,6 Jesus answered ... “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ... “That which is **born of the flesh** is flesh, and that which is **born of the Spirit** is spirit.

Rom. 7:14-25 ... For I know that **nothing good dwells in me**, that is, **in my flesh**; ... I find then the principle that **evil is present in me**, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God **in the inner man**, but I see a different law **in the members of my body**, waging war against the law of **my mind** and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is **in my members**. ... So then, on the one hand **I myself with my mind** am serving the law of God, but on the other, **with my flesh** the law of sin.

Gal. 5:16-23 *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another. ... Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, ... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;*

A Sampling of Verses Related to God's Character

PERFECT

Deut. 32:3-4 ... Ascribe greatness to our God! "The Rock! His work is perfect, ...
2 Sam. 22:31 As for God, His way is blameless; The word of the LORD is tested; ...
Matt. 5:48 ... your heavenly Father is perfect.

HOLY / RIGHTEOUS / CAN DO NO WRONG, NOR LIE / JUST / PURE FROM ALL EVIL

Deut. 32:3-4 ... Ascribe greatness to our God! "The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.
Lev. 19:2 ... Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.
Job 34:10 "... far be it from God to do wickedness, and from the Almighty to do wrong.
Psa. 18:30 As for God, His way is blameless; ...
Isa. 6:3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts,
Isa. 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place,
Hab. 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, ...
Luke 1:49 "For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name.
Rom. 3:25-26 ... whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, ...
Heb. 6:18 ... it is impossible for God to lie, ...
Rev. 15:4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; ...

SOVEREIGN

Job 34:14-15 "If He should determine to do so, if He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.
Prov. 21:30 There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.
Isa. 46:11 ... Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.
Dan. 4:35 "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, 'What have You done?'
Acts 4:24 ..., they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them",

LOVE

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, ...
Rom. 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
1 John 4:16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, ...

FAITHFUL / TOTALLY TRUSTWORTHY / DEPENDABLE

Deut. 32:3-4 ... ; Ascribe greatness to our God! ... A God of faithfulness ...
Psa. 33:18-21 ... the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for His lovingkindness, to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. For our heart rejoices in Him, because we trust in His holy name.
Psa. 34:4-8 I (David) sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. ... This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
Psa. 36:5 Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.
Psa. 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.
Jer. 29:11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.
Rom. 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
1 Cor. 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.
1 Thess. 5:24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
2 Thess. 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, ...
2 Tim. 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.
1 Peter 4:19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

NEVER CHANGES

Psa. 102:25-27 Of old You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing You will change them and they will be changed but You are the same and Your years will not come to an end.
Malachi 3:6 For I, the LORD, do not change; ...
James 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.