

NEW LIFE BIBLE STUDIES
A CALL TO HOLY LIVING
Steps to Wholeness - Enough of the Old Nature
Week 4, Day 3

One of the hardest things for a new Christian to realize is this: YOUR OLD NATURE CANNOT BE REFORMED! When you try to live in the old nature and produce the fruit of the new nature, you are frustrated endlessly.

Read Romans 7:14-20

These verses paint a picture of a Christian's conflict between the two natures. Read these verses and summarize in your own words the struggle described:

Did you write something like this?

"I want good....but I can't do it!

"I don't want to do evil....but I do it!

Here's a thought provoking question for you: In what ways do you identify with the struggle you have just summarized?

Whatever your answer, you should find it easy to answer this: Does it seem logical to you that Christ has brought you His indwelling life to live the struggle that Romans 7:14-20 describes?

_____ Yes _____ No

No, it doesn't seem logical. Yet it happens, because your old nature cannot be reformed! As long as we live, we will have to choose between our two natures -- Oh, what a glorious day it will be when we are finally rid of our old nature and can be with Him in heaven forever!

Read Romans 7:21-25

These passages describe a **civil war** that is taking place between your *old nature* and your *new nature*.

Romans 7:23 mentions a frequent result of war: captivity. And Romans 7:24 pictures a hideous situation. Ancient conquerors developed a terrible way of torturing a prisoner who was guilty of murdering someone: They would tie the corpse of the murdered victim to the back of the murderer. In time, the decaying corpse would too take the life of the prisoner.

Paul compares the old nature to a dead corpse (the body of this death). He cries out, "Who shall deliver me?" Romans 7:25 gives us the answer!

_____ our _____!!!

As Savior, Jesus Christ paid the penalty of your sin. As your LORD, Jesus must control your life. You must own His Lordship and refuse to obey your old human nature!

Read Romans 8:5-10

In verses 5 and 6, Paul contrasts two types of lifestyles. One is the life yielded to the old nature. The other is the life yielded to the rule of the new nature. Complete this simple chart to show the contrast:

	THE OLD NATURE	THE NEW NATURE
Mind-set (v.5)		
Results (v.6)		

Romans 8:7-8 makes four negative statements about a life which is yielded to the old nature. Complete these four statements about life in the old nature:

He is _____ toward God.
He does not _____.
He cannot _____.
He cannot _____.

You should have written the four negative statements as follows:

He is hostile toward God.
He does not submit himself to God's law.
He cannot submit himself to God's law.
He cannot please God.

Romans 8:9-10 Tells us that all Christians have the Spirit of God dwelling in them. To "dwell" means to reside permanently. While Christ indwells all believers, does He control the lives of all believers?

ACTION STEPS

Do you want to live according to the new nature? The first step is to recognize that your old nature is powerless to please God. Your old nature can never be reformed. You, with your own strength, are utterly helpless to change.

Next, believe that Jesus Christ can deliver you from the body of this death! He will be able to have you live in a manner pleasing to Him -- overcoming sinful habits that previously kept you enslaved.

Finally, as an act of your will, turn over you will and life to Him as your Lord. Humbly ask Him to take control of your every thought and action.

These are the beginning steps to wholeness. Tomorrow we will learn how coming to the light enables us to break free from sins that so easily entangle us as Christians.