



## SINCE WE HAVE BECOME A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST, AND DESIRE TO PLEASE GOD, WHY DO WE SIN?

We are three parts (spirit, soul and body I Thess. 5:23). As believers we are new creations in Christ primarily a spiritual being with a soul and living in a body II Cor. 5:17.

God's great purpose is to make us more and more conformed to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:28-29) We are the temple of the Holy Spirit, with Christ living within (I Cor. 6:19-20; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:4; I John 5:11-12; Gal. 4:19).

Notice the yellow: - we are joined to God in Christ (I Cor. 6:17). He wants to live His life through us (through our will, emotions and mind). Our will is our decider or chooser, our emotions our feeler and our mind our thinker;. When Christ (yellow) lives through us, the result is the fruit of the Spirit (love in our will, joy in our emotions and peace in our mind). Remember that love is a choice. Happiness depends upon what happens (happy or unhappy), but joy is a gift from God, and is not dependent upon what happens (there is no such thing as unjoy). Peace is in our mind.

Not only are we to be experiencing His life, but He also wants to be expressing His life through us (notice the chart). God has made our spirit new with the life of Christ (past); we are to be renewing our mind daily with TRUTH (present), so that He can increasingly possess our soul (or personality). Notice the three arrows. One day, we will enjoy a new body (future) Rom. 8:23. The Lord will have replaced us with His likeness, seen in the spreading of the yellow. Our decisions based on the TRUTH will result in the fruit of the Spirit.

Notice the orange :-Satan is behind sin, along with the world system and the flesh, which feeds lies and deception to our mind. Remember, whoever runs our mind runs us. If he gets us to buy into his lie (I Chron. 21:1; John 13:2; Acts 5:3) he **controls** us, causing us to live independent of God making decisions and taking actions which are the works of the flesh. In other words, he short-circuits us, preventing Christ from living His life through us. It boils down to living by lies and deception (I'm no good; I'm a failure, etc.) or by TRUTH (I'm a child of God; I'm unconditionally accepted in Christ; I'm a temple of the Holy Spirit).

Here is an example of how the chart can be used: James 4:7 "submitting to God" allowing His life in our spirit to permeate our soul (notice the three arrows going into the three parts of the soul). "Resisting the devil" - "taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" II Cor.10:5 with Eph. 6). This is done at the threshold of the mind. It's good to show the line between the spirit and the soul as the place we submit to God, and the line between the body and the mind as where Satan attacks. Notice that the brain is a part of the body and the mind is a part of the soul, (the brain dies with the body but the mind does not).

Rom. 7:15-20 speaks of "I" as the new person we are in Christ the new creation with the desire to please God. Verses 17 and 20 indicate that when we sin it's really not the new "I" but sin that dwells in our members. Verse 18 states that our new "I" desires to please God; but the flesh is no good and operates in conjunction with the world system and Satan. If we buy into lies, we allow bondage from the enemy. Verse 21 indicates that evil is a law that is present with us, even though we desire to do good. In fact, verse 22 says we "delight in the law of God according to the inner man." **But** there is another law in our members warring against the law of our mind, and bringing us into captivity to the law of sin which is in our members. Romans chapter 8:1-11 makes it very clear that we need the Holy Spirit to be victorious, and that we are not in the flesh anymore, but in the Spirit. Though we are no longer **in** the flesh, we can live **after** the flesh. Indeed, we are responsible.

There are two forces involved in the believer's life, the Holy Spirit through our spirit and Satan through the flesh. The issue is not whether Satan can possess us or suppress us; it is all a matter of **control**. Either the Holy Spirit controls us or Satan through the world system and the flesh. It's the truth that sets us free; accepting lies puts us in bondage. Christ is our life, and the Holy Spirit is ready and willing to make us victorious.