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THE SIN NATURE AND THE FLESH

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Power of the Cross of Christ

vs.

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# The Sin nature and The Flesh

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The Sin nature and the Flesh and its lust are two different things.

The nature of Sin requires the lust of the flesh to express itself in its dominion over us with its deceitful and deceptive fruit.

Before we get started, let us remember that the dominion of the nature of Sin could be for 10 seconds, weeks, months, decades or the rest of our lives.

I think we have looked at the dominion of Sin as something that is ongoing such as drug addiction, drunkenness, or a list of many other OBVIOUS sinful bondages, which is truly correct, but we need to know that the nature of Sin can only function WHILE one is NOT trusting in the Cross/Death of Jesus Christ and can express itself in a moment through an angry, lying, gossiping, or jealous word or action, because in that moment we are not trusting in that which Christ did on the Cross, where the lusts of our flesh were crucified to His Cross.

No, we are not denying what Christ did there for us with our lips, but we are NOT trusting in His work there within our heart WHILE the nature of Sin is expressing itself through the lust of our flesh.

# **1. The Lust of the Flesh is Not Itself Sin, But It Leads to Sin if Fulfilled**

**The Bible says in Galatians**

## **Galatians 5:16**

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

**This shows clearly:**

- The lust of the flesh is present, even in the believer.
- But if we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill that lust.
- Therefore, it is the fulfillment (or carrying out) of the lust of the flesh that brings about sin.

**Also, James 1:14-15 helps define this progression:**

## **James 1:14-15**

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

**So, we see:**

- Lust is present and brings temptation.

- When that lust is conceived (i.e., when we agree with it, submit to it and act), it brings forth sin.
- Sin is the result of yielding to or fulfilling the lust, not merely its presence.

## **2. The Flesh Still Lusts in the Believer, But the Power to Overcome is Found in the Cross**

### **Galatians 5:17**

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

#### **This means:**

- The lust of the flesh is a constant presence.
- But the Holy Spirit is also constantly working against that lust.
- Victory is not found in our willpower, but in walking in the Spirit, which is done only through faith in the Cross.

As the Apostle Paul wrote:

### **Galatians 2:20**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

### **3. Faith in the Cross Keeps Lust from Being Fulfilled**

“It is only when the lust of the flesh is fulfilled that it becomes sin.”

Walking in the Spirit (which is only possible WHILE one’s Faith in what Christ did at Calvary) is the only way to NOT fulfill any lust of the flesh.

This is not behavioral first, but positional and spiritual.

#### **Romans 8:13**

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

We do not overcome the lusts of the flesh by fighting it in our strength, but by reckoning ourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:11).

#### **Romans 6:11**

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **Our Conclusion at this point:**

- The lust of the flesh is not itself sin, but a source of temptation.
- It becomes sin when it is conceived and fulfilled.

- Victory is found not in trying harder, but in walking in the Spirit, which only happens through faith in Christ and Him crucified.
- The Cross is the only place where the power of lust is broken, and the Spirit is given freedom to empower the believer to overcome.

### **Galatians 5:24**

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

## **The Sin nature is Revived When Faith is not in the Cross of Christ**

**In Romans 7:9, Paul writes:**

### **Romans 7:9**

For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

**This shows us a clear spiritual law:**

- Paul was “alive” (walking in grace and victory) WHILE his Faith was right.
- But when he turned back to law (trusting in his performance or any other source), “sin revived”, that is, the Sin nature became active again.

- When that happened, he experienced spiritual death (separation from victory and fellowship, not loss of salvation).

The Sin nature (the power of indwelling sin) does not leave the believer but is made dormant only WHILE our faith remains in Christ and Him crucified (Romans 6:6-14).

This is what Christ was teaching by abiding IN Him to remain fruitful.

### **John 15:4-5**

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

## **The Lust of the Flesh Has No Restraint Without the Cross**

**Galatians 5:16-17 tells us:**

### **Galatians 5:16-17**

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

## When we:

- Stop trusting in the Cross and start trusting in self, willpower, church activity, programs, us having to have the last word or anything else.
- Then we are no longer walking in the Spirit, because the Spirit only works within the boundaries of our faith in the Cross which takes place in the heart and produces fruit (Romans 8:2).

## Romans 8:2

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

## Therefore:

- The flesh's lust, which is always present, now has no opposition.
- The Spirit of God is grieved and restrained (Ephesians 4:30) when our faith is not in Christ crucified.

## Ephesians 4:30

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

- The lust of the flesh finds fulfillment, and sin is committed, **NOT BECAUSE THE TEMPTATION WAS TOO STRONG**, but because the Sin nature was revived and the power of the Spirit was cut off.

# Only the Cross Breaks the Sin nature's Dominion

## Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

## Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

## **But how do we stay under grace?**

Only one way: Faith in Christ and Him crucified.

The moment we place our trust in anything else, a preacher, a program, a principle, a fast, a discipline, a gift, we are no longer under grace, and sin (the Sin nature) begins to dominate again (Romans 6:14).

## **Summary: When Faith is relinquished by not being in the Cross:**

- The Sin nature revives (Romans 7:9).
- The Spirit is grieved and restricted (Galatians 5:4; Ephesians 4:30).

- The lust of the flesh has no resistance and is fulfilled, bringing about sin (James 1:15).
- The believer is left in defeat, confusion, and frustration, even while doing religious things.

## **Victory Is Only Found Through perpetual Faith in the Cross of Jesus Christ**

- Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ...”

### **Galatians 2:20**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- Romans 8:2, “The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free...”

### **Romans 8:2**

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

- 1 Corinthians 1:18, “The preaching of the Cross...unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

### **1 Corinthians 1:18**

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of

God.

Only as we daily (Moment by moment) deny ourselves (our efforts) and take up His Cross (Luke 9:23) can we follow Him and walk in the Spirit, where lust is not fulfilled, and the Sin nature remains dormant without an avenue to express its dominion.

### **Luke 9:23**

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

It is crucial that we make this distinction loud and clear when teaching about Faith and the Sin nature.

Here's how we can rightly divide this truth according to the Scriptures, exalting the finished work of Christ and clarifying the operation of true, saving faith.

## **The Faith of the Son of God Is Given at Salvation, And It Is Immovable**

Galatians 2:20 says:

### **Galatians 2:20**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

This is not our own faith that we stirred up, it is the Faith of Christ Himself, measured to us at the moment of salvation (Romans 12:3).

### **Romans 12:3**

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

### **Ephesians 2:8**

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

This faith is perfect, eternal, and immovable, because it is rooted in Christ and His death. It does not move, we move.

When we begin to trust in something other than the Cross even for a moment, we are not moving “Faith” to a new object, we are stepping out of the Faith of Christ and back into the carnal faith we had before we were Born Again, which is not faith at all in God’s eyes.

All religions have some sort of faith, but it is not The Faith of The Son of God who Loved us and Gave Himself for us (Galatians 2:20)

There is only one Faith:

### **Ephesians 4:4-5**

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, **one faith**, one baptism,

Not all men have Faith, referring to The Faith of The Son of God or Faith IN The Son of God

## **2 Thessalonians 3:2**

And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

# **The Faith of Christ Remains in the Cross, It Is We Who Depart from It**

**Let us be clear:**

- The faith that works, overcomes, and pleases God is only the Faith of the Son of God and it does not shift.
- But when we stop trusting in the Cross, we are no longer operating in that Faith, we revert to a natural, carnal faith, which is of the flesh and has no spiritual power.
- This is not living by faith, this is living by the flesh while claiming faith, and this is why defeat sets in.

## **Romans 14:23**

And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

And only faith in the Cross of Christ is biblical faith. All other so-called “faith” is of the flesh and puts us back under law,

where Sin revives, and the Sin nature dominates (Romans 7:9-11).

### **Romans 7:9-11**

9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

## **Reverting to Fleshly faith Brings the Believer Under Law Again**

### **Galatians 3:3**

Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

When a believer begins to trust in anything other than the Cross, they are:

- Not moving the faith of Christ to another object (because that faith cannot be moved),
- The Faith we live by is IN Christ Jesus

### **1 Timothy 1:14**

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

- Again, we cannot move the Faith which is IN Christ Jesus, but instead leaving that faith and reverting to a fleshly trust, we go back to what we had before salvation.

This is exactly what happened to the Galatians.

Paul didn't say they moved their faith, he said they fell from grace (Galatians 5:4), meaning they stepped outside of where Faith and Grace works, and thus outside of where the Spirit of Grace works (Romans 8:2).

### **Romans 8:2**

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

## **The Sin nature Expresses Its Dominion Through the Lust of Our Flesh**

The Sin nature (indwelling sin), which every person is born with, does not disappear at salvation. Instead, it is rendered dormant (inactive) by Faith in the Cross, and it only expresses its dominion again when our hearts are yielded to it again through the lust of our fleshly desires. (Romans 6:6, Romans 7:9).

### **Romans 6:6**

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

## **Romans 7:9**

For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

But how does the Sin nature express its dominion?

Through the fulfilled lust of our flesh.

## **Romans 6:12**

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Notice:

- “Sin” here refers to the Sin Nature, not acts of sin.
- It wants to reign, to dominate, in your mortal body.
- And it does this by drawing you to obey the lusts of the flesh.

The Sin nature does not reign by force; it reigns by tempting the flesh and drawing the believer to obey its lusts.

## **James 1:14-15**

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

This shows us:

- The lust of the flesh is the avenue through which Sin has its motions of movement.

### **Romans 7:5**

For when we were in the flesh, **the motions of sins**, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

- If we obey the lust, sin is conceived.
- That lust is fueled by the Sin nature when it is revived (Romans 7:9).

So, when we stop trusting in the Cross of Christ, the Sin nature revives, and its method of control is through the lusts of our flesh.

May we always remember that man only has ONE THING he is truly in control of and that is what he will choose to yield his heart to.

If he yields his heart to the Truth of Jesus Christ and Him crucified, The Holy Spirit will be in control and guide him into the will of God.

If he refuses to yield his heart to the Truth of Jesus Christ and Him crucified, The Sin nature will dominate him through the lust of his flesh until he does, if he ever does.

# **The Flesh Is the Sin Nature's Playground, Unless the Cross of Christ Is Yielded to from the heart**

## **Galatians 5:16-17**

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

If we do not walk in the Spirit, we will fulfill the lusts of the flesh, and this is how and where the Sin nature dominates us as Believers who are not Believing correctly.

But how do we walk in the Spirit?

Only one way:

## **Romans 8:2**

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

The Holy Spirit only works within the perimeters of our Faith in the Cross. When our faith remains in Christ crucified, The Holy Spirit overcomes the lust of the flesh, and the Sin nature remains dormant.

## **Summary: The Chain of Defeat and the Chain of Victory**

## **When our heart is not yielded to the Cross of Christ:**

1. The Sin nature revives (Romans 7:9).
2. It dominates through the fulfilled lusts of the flesh (Romans 6:12).
3. We fulfill those lusts (Galatians 5:16).
4. Sin is committed (James 1:15), and defeat follows.

## **When our hearts remain yielded to the Truth of the Cross of Christ:**

1. The Sin nature experiences its place of being crucified with Christ (Romans 6:6).
2. The Spirit overcomes the lust of the flesh (Romans 8:2).
3. We do not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).
4. We walk in victory, by grace through faith.

Our Faith is our victory over the world if it is the Faith we received upon being Born Again.

### **1 John 5:4**

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

