



Bible Doctrines IV - Survey

Godly Living

I. THE POSSIBILITY OF GODLY LIVING

A. The Three Types of People

1. The natural man—unsaved (1 Corinthians 2:14)
2. The spiritual man—saved, mature in the faith, and walking in the Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:1)
3. The carnal man—saved, but walking after the flesh, either because of immaturity in the faith or willful disobedience (1 Corinthians 3:1)

B. The Natures in Man

1. The natural nature of man
 - a. This nature is based upon Adam's provisional sin—"so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12)
 - (1) Something changed in man as a result of Adam's sin.
 - a) "By one man's disobedience many were made sinners" (Romans 5:19).
 - b) We "were by nature the children of wrath, even as others" (Ephesians 2:3).
 - c) Isaiah said "we are all as an unclean thing" (Isaiah 64:6).
 - d) David declared, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5).
 - (2) There is a scriptural correlation between this corrupted nature and the "old man."
 - a) At salvation, "our old man is crucified with him [Christ], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:6).
 - b) We "put off the old man with his deeds" (Colossians 3:9).
 - c) Because of salvation, we are to "put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts" (Ephesians 4:22).
 - b. As it pertains to this nature, the scripture suggests the following:
 - (1) That which is born of the flesh is flesh (John 3:6).
 - a) This is described elsewhere as being "in the flesh" (Romans 7:5; Romans 8:9).
 - b) Those "in the flesh" CANNOT please God (Romans 8:8).
 - (2) This man is a natural man and does not receive the things of the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:14).
 - (3) He is a child of disobedience and of wrath (Ephesians 2:2-3; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:6) and of the Devil (1 John 3:10).
 - (4) He is dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1-5; Colossians 2:13).



2. The new nature for man
 - a. For both the spiritual man and the carnal man there exists two natures within. These are typically identified as the old man and the new man (Colossians 3:9-10).
 - (1) Positionally, the old man is dead and only a new man has been put on (Romans 6:6; Colossians 3:9-10).
 - (2) Practically, the old man has to be put to death and the new man has to be put on (Ephesians 4:22-24).
 - (3) This dichotomy is described very well in Romans 7:14-25.
 - b. This new nature is presented as a resurrected life empowered and enabled by Christ (Romans 6:4-5; Romans 7:6; Ephesians 2:1, 5-6; Colossians 2:12-13; Colossians 3:1; see Philippians 3:10).
 - c. This new nature is identified as the new man (Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10).
 - (1) Positionally, it is put on (Colossians 3:10).
 - (2) Practically, it must be put on (Ephesians 4:24).
 - d. This new nature makes it possible to live a holy life (Galatians 2:20).

C. The Enabling of Man

1. The enlightening of the word
 - a. The word of God gives light to the man who would otherwise be ignorant (Psalm 119:130).
 - b. The word of God is profitable for instruction and righteousness and furnishes man unto all good works (2 Timothy 3:15-17).
2. The enabling of the Spirit
 - a. The Holy Ghost guides into truth (John 14:26; John 16:13).
 - b. Walking after the Spirit yields a godly walk (Romans 8:4; Romans 15:13; Galatians 5:16, 22-24; Ephesians 3:16).

II. THE DISTINCTION OF GODLY LIVING

A. Laying the Foundation

1. Varying focuses
 - a. Being—The supposition is “I do and feel, because I am.”
 - b. Doing—The supposition is “I do, therefore I am.”
 - c. Feeling—The supposition is “I feel, therefore I am.”
2. Ordering the parts correctly
 - a. Contrary to what any one group might suppose, all of the above are right and present in a healthy Christian walk.
 - b. The problem for and present in any group comes when the component parts are placed in an unscriptural order.
 - c. One can feel or do right without being right, but one cannot be right without then doing right.



B. The State of Being

1. In pursuit of more understanding on this truth, one would have to consider verses using *am*, *be*, *is*, *art*, and *are*.
2. Understanding our pursuit
 - a. When we study any member of the Godhead, we breakdown the overall study into two sections:
 - (1) The study of the person
 - (2) The study of the works/practice
 - b. When we study the life of a believer, we breakdown the study into two sections, but also add a subsection.
 - (1) The study of the person
 - a) Position
 - b) Practice or practical
 - (2) The study of the works/practice
 - c. When we mention the state of being, we mean that we are looking into what a person is, whether positionally or practically, and not necessarily what a person does.
3. To exemplify this point, consider the following verses:
 - a. Concerning God (Leviticus 11:44-45)
 - b. Concerning man (2 Corinthians 13:14; 2 Peter 3:11)

C. The Act of Doing

1. This is that which may be seen, but, as it pertains to man, can be misleading.
2. The act of doing, if all things are right, is based upon the state of being.
3. To understand this truth, consider:
 - a. The existence of the connection
 - (1) “The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.” (Psalm 145:17)
 - (2) “Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments.” (Psalm 119:137)
 - b. The explanation of the connection—“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” (Malachi 3:6)
4. As it pertains to man, either righteous or unrighteous doings proceed from a righteous or unrighteous heart (Matthew 15:19; Mark 7:21).

D. The Joy of Feeling

1. Two extremes exist when considering the final principle:
 - a. Putting feelings ahead of being and doing
 - b. Minimizing feelings as though they play no part in the Christian experience
2. The scriptural truths offer a contrary and balanced viewpoint (1 Chronicles 16:10; 1 Chronicles 29:9; 2 Chronicles 15:15; Psalm 32:11; Psalm 33:21)