

# DIVIDED

## STUDY NO. 5

Sin is the cause of the division between God and man. It’s an unbreakable barrier that we can’t overcome on our own. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ opened a unique way for us to come to God. In order to start walking in this path, all we have to do is to believe in the work of Jesus on the cross, repent from our sinful way of life and ask God to give us a new life. If we haven’t done that, all the study we have done so far won’t be of much use. But all those of us who have been born again, will receive all this teaching as our spiritual food which will allow us grow. Thank you Lord for so many blessings!

Now that God has given us a new life, let’s ask ourselves this question: Do God’s children sin? Answer and explain.

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We can’t understand the presence of sin in our lives since we have received a new life that comes from God. **Ephesians 4:22-24** makes it a little bit clearer.

### **Ephesians 4:22-24**

*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;<sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds;<sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

According to this passage there are two men/women that co-exist in each person:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

This verse is referring to the two natures that co-exist in the children of God: the old nature (flesh) and the new nature (spirit).

### **The old nature**

According to what we have read, the old man/nature has the following characteristics:

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Our old nature is the one we have from birth. It naturally goes against God and only cares about its own desires and self-gratification.

List the works of the old nature:

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The desires of the old man/nature are:

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In the following verse, the old nature is described as being similar to something? What is it compared to and why the comparison?

**Romans 7:23-24**

*But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

According to Jesus' expression in **John 3:6**: How can we improve our flesh (the old man)?

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**The new nature**

This new nature is something we receive when we first meet with the Lord. It is pure and spiritual, and always seeks to please God before anything else.

List the works of the new nature:

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The desires of the spirit are:

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We need the new nature to be able to do all the things we can't do with the old one. Jesus came to set us free from that sinful nature.

**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."*

**Colossians 3:9-10** *"Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."*

According to what we've read: When does this crucifixion or laying down the old man occur? And when do we receive the new nature?

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**Battle and victory**

We, as children of God, have already received a new life and our whole being has been completely renewed. The Lord has already done everything but there is something that God wants us to put into practice. Our Father allows us to take an active part in the battle between these two natures so we can experience victory and feel that we are co-workers with Christ.

Based on the following scriptures, let's see how we have to deal with the different areas in our lives.

**Ephesians 4:22-24** (read above)

**Colossians 3:5, 8-10** *“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. - But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”*

**Romans 8:13-14** *“For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”*

**Hebrews 5:13-14** *“Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”*

In the area of our mind:

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In the area of our desires:

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In the area of our will:

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In the area of our actions:

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In the area of our spirit:

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This battle between the two natures is hard. Some people deceive themselves by saying that “they are good and they don’t harm anyone”; others say that “they are born like that and that is their personality”; others even hide their bad actions by acting as if they were “holy”. The hardest attitude to find is the one that struggles to finish with the old nature as it is. The Bible says:

**1 Corinthians 6:12** *“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”*

It’s foolish thing to belittle the battle. The first step we need to give is to make a decision. This will be as if we are declaring war: we will not obey the sinful desires of the flesh any more. Instead we will do the will of God. The next step is the actual battle. We will not win it in one go; this battle will keep going every day as the Lord warned us: *“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” (Luke 9:23)*. It’s also possible that we fall sometimes, but if we come to Him, He will forgive us and restore us again.

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9)*

It is possible to live a new and holy life. We only need to be willing to pay the price.