

**Sanctification: Transformed into  
The Image of Christ  
Lesson 17**

**I. Introduction**

- a. There are three Biblical **contrasts** which we must consider as opposites to make our survey of Biblical anthropology complete:
  1. The "**old man**" (palaios anthropos) and the "new man" (neos anthropos or kainos anthropos);
  2. The "**outward man**" (exoanthropos) and the "inward man" (esoanthropos);
  3. The "**natural man**" (psuchikos anthropos) and the "spiritual man" (pneumatikos anthropos).
- b. These are not three different sorts of men, but three different expressions of man as he is in his **state** as either being unregenerate or regenerate.
- c. Careful consideration of these antitheses will help us arrive at a **clearer** conception of what the Biblical writer means by the "new man."

**II. The Old Man**

- a. This term is used three times by Paul to signify the **unrenewed** man, the natural man in the corruption of sin, i.e. sinful human nature before conversion and regeneration. Rom 6:6 *Our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin"*
- b. Here the "old man" is called the "**body** of sin," just as the physical organism is called the body of the soul or spirit. To illustrate this concept consider the following:
  1. The old house is the house as it was **before** it was remodeled.
  2. An old garment is the garment as it was **before** it was re-fashioned into a new garment.
  3. The "old man" is man as he was **before** he was regenerated and sanctified by the grace of the Spirit. Col 3:9 *Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;KJV*
- c. The old man is theologically synonymous with "flesh" which stands, not merely for bodily organism, but, for the **whole** nature of man (body and soul) turned away from God and devoted to self and to earthly things. Rom 8:4-8 *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. KJV*
- d. The believer is instructed to **consider** the old man in the following ways:
  1. It is **crucified"** Rom 6:6 *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him,*
  2. The principle of life which Jesus Christ has implanted in us to be brought into full effect, strength, and usefulness is by the **destruction** of the body of sin, our old man, our wicked, corrupt, and fleshly self.
  3. The believer is crucified; **presently** truly slain as Christ was crucified. This is done that our souls may as truly be raised from a death of sin to a life of righteousness, as the body of Christ was raised from the grave. Thus we live a new life.
  4. It should be **put off** Eph 4:22 *Put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt*
  5. This figure is that of putting off old **clothes** which are unclean, polluted and defiled. This is an active and conscious activity; recognizing those garments (thoughts, words, deeds) as defiled, we cast them off from our persons. Ps 109:18 *As he clothed himself with cursing like as with his garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones. KJV*
  6. We are then to **put on** those garments which God has washed and prepared for us, spotless and snowy white. Isa 61:10 *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.KJV*
  7. That the **manifestation** of the old man might be destroyed Ro 6:6 *that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. KJV*
- e. That is, through the process of sanctification, that it might be put to death **experientially**; might become inoperative and powerless. Sin becomes enervated, weakened, and finally annihilated, by the work of the Cross as we live out our true selves.

**III. The Outward Man**

- a. Paul calls attention to "the outward man. The "outward man" is that outward appearing manifestation which we call the **body**. 2 Cor 4:16 *but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. KJV*
- b. The outward man is **perishing** under the strain of use, there is no remedy for its decline, it must and will be so, it was made to perish as a consequence of the fall. Gen 3:19 *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. KJV*
- c. Ultimately, the decline of the body **contributes** to the renewing of the inward man, because as we encounter outward afflictions (sickness, pain, weakness, etc) we gain inwardly. At these times we are driven to be evermore dependent upon Christ. 2 Cor 12:10 *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. KJV*

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**IV. The Natural Man**

- a. The natural man (psuchikos anthropos) (**soul man**): Man as he is by his soul nature, contrasted with man as he becomes by grace. 1 Cor 2:14 *"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*KJV
- b. The soul-man is not only one who has had no spiritual teaching, or has, at least, not profited by it; but one who lives for the **present world**, having no respect to spiritual or eternal things.
- c. To the natural man these spiritual things are foolishness; for while man is in his soulish state he cannot see the excellence of spiritual things because they are spiritually discerned, and he has no spiritual **perception**. Such a person is no better than a beast. 2 Peter 2:12 *But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; KJV*

**V. The Inner Man**

- a. The Hebrew language had absolutely no linguistic concept that fits the notion of the **inner man**. This is possibly due to the fact that Hebrews were content to leave unasked so many questions which seemed so obvious to the Greeks.
- b. Paul himself only uses the expression three times in his writings. This would seem to indicate that the term holds **special** significance. 2 Corinthians 4:16 *even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. KJV*
- c. The inward man, given birth by the Spirit is sustained by the **experiential** knowledge of Christ and submission to Him. The food of the inward man is that bread of life which came down from heaven. John 6:53-57 *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. <sup>56</sup> He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. KJV*
- d. As the soul man is fed by natural food, the inner man is truly fed and nourished by **divine food**. Eph 3:16 *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; KJV*

**VI. The Spiritual Man:**

- a. The "**spiritual man**" is a designation given in opposition both to the "carnal man" and to the "natural man" 1 Cor 2:15 *But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. KJV*
- b. All three of these terms are personifications of human nature. But the "spiritual man" is this same human nature after it has been seized upon and **regenerated** as determined by the Holy Spirit. Rom 8:9 *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. KJV*
- c. The word "spiritual" is a noun-form. The spiritual life is that life of which the Holy Spirit is the **author** and preserver.
- d. The "spiritual man" is that nature or character in man which the Holy Spirit originates, preserves, determines, disciplines, sanctifies and glorifies. It is the true **new self** as born again possessing eternal life. 2 Cor 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. KJV*

**VII. The New Man**

- a. Generally described, the "new man" is man as he becomes under the **transforming** power of the Holy Spirit, contrasted with man as he is by nature. Eph 4:24 *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*KJV
- b. This is called in other places, the "new creature, or the new creation" and refers to the condition after the heart is changed. The change is **so great**, that there is no impropriety in speaking of one who has experienced it as "a new man."
- c. The body of the new man is indeed the same; the intellectual structure of his mind the same; but there has been a **fundamental** change in his principles and responses to spiritual matters. Regeneration is not a trifling change.
- d. The idea is, evidently, that man is so renewed as to become "like" God, or, said another way, the divine **image** is restored to his being. Col 3:10 *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: KJV*
- e. The renewed man is made to resemble God in righteousness. The object of the work of redemption is to restore to man the condition in which he was before he fell; in **true holiness**. Eph 4:24 *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. KJV*

**VIII. Application**

- a. If your "old man" is truly crucified, presently slain, how do you explain the manifestation of it that you witness on a daily basis? In what sense may it be said that your "old man" is truly crucified?
- b. What spiritual purpose is served by your recognition of your "old man" as it manifests in your daily experience?
- c. By what means is the "old man" destroyed?
- d. If the divine image is restored to the believer, by what means is that image to manifest itself in the person?
- e. What is the part played by the believer in that manifestation of the divine image? How are you doing on that score?