

## **Christians Have Two Natures”**

Romans 7:15-20

Sunday Evening, March 17, 2019

**Introduction:** If you are a Christian, you have two natures.” You have the “flesh nature” and you have the “Spirit nature.”

1. You can enter the world with your “flesh nature” (Romans 5:12).
2. When you became a Christian, you took on your “Spirit nature” (Romans 8:5-11).

The apostle Paul illustrates this in Romans 7:15-20. He summarized this in one verse in Galatians 5:17.

In your life, and in my life, there is the presence and conflict of these two natures.

- There is the good and the bad.
- There is the weakness and the strength.
- Inconsistencies are everywhere.
- We sometimes act in ways contrary to God’s character.

**T.S.** As you read your Bible on this, three things are clear.

1. God does not give up on people.
2. God’s will does not depend on our perfection.
3. God will work in your life despite your flaws.

**Example:** There is no better example in the Bible of this than Jacob, the father of the twelve tribes of Israel.

1. Jacob entered the world clinging to the heel of his twin brother Esau (Genesis 25:26).

- Look at the story in Genesis 25:19-26.
- Jacob entered the world nipping at Esau's heel to overtake him.

**Application:** We entered the world with a sin nature (Romans 5:12).

**Illustration in the Bible:** Read the story of Jacob and you will see some "flesh things" that won in Jacobs's life that are the same "flesh things" that can win in your life.

1. Selfish ambition: Jacob wanted Esau's birthright and Esau's blessing.
2. Deceit: Jacob deceived his father, Isaac, and robbed Esau of his blessing (Genesis 27:1-40).

**Illustration in the news:** The news this week has been Hollywood actresses and chief executives being charged with the largest cheating scam ever prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice. The University of Texas tennis coach was fired this week for allegedly taking a bribe of nearly \$100,000 to get a tennis recruit an easier admission who had not played tennis since the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Paul Manafort's deceit has in in prison for 7 and a half years.

**Application:** We need to understand and remember that stolen success comes at a cost. In Jacobs's case, he had to flee for his life and spend the next 20 years in exile from the Promise Land.

**Conclusion:** We best judge ourselves rather than Jacob and others. Let me ask you a question. What character flaws do you wrestle with? I thought about some I struggle with and see others struggle with. Let me read some I wrote down.

1. Selfishness
2. Gossip
3. Judging other people

4. Dishonesty
5. Not telling the truth
6. Unforgiveness
7. Taking the low road
8. Lack of discipline
9. Immorality
10. Anger/hot tempered
11. Moodiness
12. Impatience
13. Fear of failure
14. Lack of courage to succeed.

The How do you break out of these flaws?

1. Admit your character flaws to yourself.
2. Admit your character flaws to God. This is what 1 John 1:9 teaches.
3. Daily spend time in God's Word.
4. Appropriate the Holy Spirit to be your enabler.