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What Is Man?

(Psalms 8:4; Hebrews 2:6)

The question, *“What is Man?”* has been examined by philosophers and anthropologists alike, yet the simple question is best answered by the greatest source of spiritual revelation today, the Holy Bible. The Bible boldly addresses it twice, once in the Old Testament in Psalms 8:4, and then again in the New Testament in Hebrews 2:6. Psalms 8:4, properly translated by the New American Standard version, says this: *“What is man that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? Yet, Thou hast made him a little lower than God (Elohim); and thou does crown him with glory and majesty! Thou doest make him to rule over the works of Thy hands.”* The New Testament, in my opinion, uses the weaker rendering in Hebrews 2:7 when it says, *“made him a little lower than the angels.”* The stronger Psalms translation (lower than God) is the one I prefer.

Angels are amazing spirit beings, but they were spirits created to minister and serve redeemed mankind who are, “heirs of salvation” (Hebrew 1:14). *“Angels were not made in the image of God, and God could therefore not become incarnate in them. No angel can become a blood-born son of God, nor can one ever*

be a partaker of the divine nature." Did Paul ever say of the angels as he did of the Church, that they constitute His Body of which He is the Head, *"the fullness of him that filleth all in all"* (Ephesians 1:23)? Did Paul ever say of angels, *"Ye are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones"* (Ephesians 5:30)? And didn't Paul say that we, the body of Christ, would judge the angels (I Corinthians 6:3)? Then how is it that Hebrews 2:7 says that we were made a little lower than the angels? I believe it was weakened in the King James Version, but correctly rendered in the New American Standard Version, *"lower than Elohim"* (Psalms 8:5).

Dr. Theodore H. Mann writes concerning the Hebrew text of Psalms 8:5 (Remember the author of Hebrews is quoting the LXX, a translation of the Hebrew text). *"We do not find the word angels, but God (Hebrew "Elohim"). The Jewish scholars who wrote the LXX thought that calling man only a little lower than God might belittle God, so they chose to use the alternate meaning of Elohim (the plural gods or godlike beings, interpreted as angels) in their translation."*

It is interesting to me that the Jewish scholars didn't want to bring God down any where near to man's level, while God wants to bring man up to an exalted glorified level, that is *"a little lower than Elohim."* Personally, the fact that God created man a little lower than God Himself doesn't belittle God, it elevates Him.

It is nothing but self-less love that creates man in such an exalted position, and it is that same love that desires friendship and fellowship with His created sons.

The Spirit is making the point in the Hebrews 2:7 passage that through the Fall, mankind has fallen into a realm lower than even the angels. Angels are not mortal flesh beings—they are able to take any form they want to, while fallen man has mortal flesh and blood limiting him to time and space. However, through the intercessory work of our Savior, the last Adam, Jesus was made mortal “*flesh and blood,*” “*being made like unto his brethren*” (Hebrews 2:9-14). In order that by “*tasting death for all men,*” He might gain the victory of His resurrection, and reinstate man to his proper elevated place far above the angelic realm being made, “*lord of all*” (Galatians 4:1b).

Ephesians 1:20-2:6 says that we are seated with Christ “*in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power, and might and dominion.*” That certainly includes all the heavenly host and the whole angelic realm. *Original man* was made a little lower than Elohim. *Fallen man* lost that position and fell lower than the angels, but now the “*new man*” in Christ is crowned with “*glory and honor, and God put His works in our hands. The Lord put all things in subjection under our feet. For in that He put all in subjection*

under redeemed man, he left nothing that is not put under him. "But now we see not yet all things put under him" (Hebrews 2:6-8).

Interesting statement. It is not until redeemed man is made safe by the Cross and can receive his full inheritance in Christ that we will see all things put under redeemed man's feet.

Man is God's highest creation and lower only to the Creator. The Creator made man a little lower than "*Elohim*" in the sense that the visible form has to be lower than the one who is Himself the Creator and is invisible and uncreated. Also, God's created dwelling place (man) has to be lower than the one who created it.

After we have explored the heights of redeemed man's glorified position in Christ. Let us get on the elevator and drop to the ground floor. How far have we fallen in our understandings concerning ourselves, our purpose, and our destiny? Our lives and minds have been inundated with separated concepts and fantasies spun to us by our former father, Satan.

All my life I thought of myself as *just me*-- Sylvia living here alone and having an alone human existence with my own thoughts, my own decisions, my own abilities, and basically my own life. Little did I know that this lie of seeing myself as a separate being is the lie that is all pervasive and "*deceives the whole world*" (Revelation 12:9). All humanity lives in this lie and believes it as if it were the truth--whole-heartedly agreeing with it.

What I would like to do in this book is expose this insidious lie of self empowered independent self, and bring the reader right on through to the truth of who he really is, as well as illuminate our understanding concerning our precious redeemed humanity. Unless this lie is examined to its depths, height, and its width, we cannot fully see what it means to be Christ, living as us.

In our fallen condition our minds are blinded, our thoughts about our selves are false, and our consciousness is deluded with ideas of independence. Through Christ, we already have the new mind of Christ, but because we don't know it, nor draw from this new mind, the old thoughts flood our consciousness and keep us in bondage. My good friend, Louis Tucker says that we have "*crystallized thought patterns.*" These thought patterns hold us in bondage and fear.

So the best way for the Lord to unravel the confusion is to do it in stages. This presentation, and in particular the first chart, takes us from stage to stage as the Spirit begins to illuminate to us the real truth. Norman Grubb once said that we move from "wrong-self, to no-self, to right-self." This is another way of declaring the great identity truths of Galatians 2:20, *I (wrong-self) am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I (no-self), but Christ lives in me, and the life which I (right-self), now live I live by the faith of the son of God who loves me and gave himself for me.*

All understanding and insights come from opposites--the one opposite gaining its definition and distinction from its opposite, and significant other. Hot cannot be known except by its opposite, cold. Small cannot be understood except by its opposite, big. Soft is felt because it is not hard. Sweet is tasted and known to be sweet because it is not sour. You say yes to doing this, but hidden in that yes is a no to doing that, and so on.

Consciousness is realized the same way. We have a consciousness of oneness with Christ, because we have had a mind brainwashed with the Satanic lies of self empowerment and separation. The darkness of this lying consciousness is swallowed up in the light of the glorious truth of the gospel. One is defined by and built on the other.

The name of the first chart is "Cleansed Consciousness" (Hebrews 9:14). It is rightly named simply because we all must have our minds renewed to the truth (Romans 12:2) which will close all the gaps of separation and cleanse our blinded consciousness from a guilty, "What Is Wrong With Me?" Sin-consciousness to the clear, free, liberated mind of the Spirit.

Therefore, unless this lie of independent-self be known and drunk to the dregs *with its wicked source fully exposed*, how will it ever be known to be a lie, and how will we ever know the truth that will set us free?

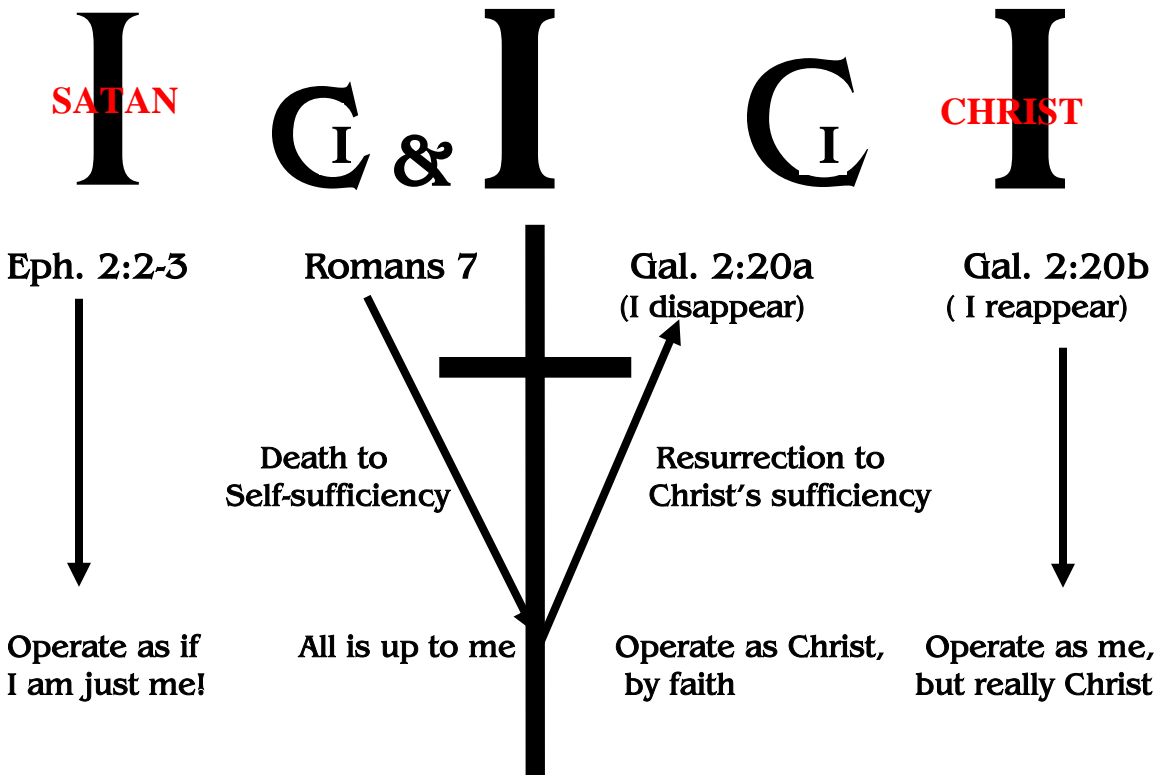
Cleansed Consciousness (Hebrews 9:14)

BEING
(Wrong-Self)

TRYING
(Deluded-Self)

RESTING
(No Independent-Self)

BEING
(Right-Self)



Whosoever will lose his life shall find it
(Matt. 16:25)

Chart #1a

BEING
(Wrong-Self)

I
SATAN

(Ephesians 2:1-4)

Why do I write “being” above the first “I?” This first “I” represents our lost condition, and the word “being” represents our way of operation. All lost people are just being themselves. They are not trying to be sinners; they are just naturally being one. They don’t wake up every morning and say to their master, Satan, “How can I serve you?” Or, “What rules do I need to keep in order to be accepted by you, or stay in good standing with you?” Lost people don’t work hard at being lost, do they? No, they don’t work hard at all. They just “be” themselves and they naturally and spontaneously bear the fruits of unrighteousness.

Now compare a sinners natural spontaneity with the way most Christians operate. Most Christians believe in *performance-*

based acceptance. "The harder I work and try to be a good Christian, the more the Lord accepts and loves me." Sinners don't work at being a sinner, yet we saints work really hard at being a Christian. A lot can be learned by this comparison. The life of a saint should be just as easily, and spontaneously lived as the life of the sinner. We should just be a saint, and not *try* to be a saint.

As you can see, there are four "I's" on this first chart. Why "I's"? All we ever have in life is ourselves. Who is that self and who do we think we are? How does that self operate? When we answer these simple questions we will know the secret of life.

The first "I" to the far left, is intersected by the name "Satan." This "I" represents all of the unsaved in the world. Why do I put the word "Satan" over the first "I"? The created human, "little spirit" or "I" is created to contain and be indwelt by a deity Spirit. Through the Fall, the human race has been invaded by an Satanic spirit. This spirit has so penetrated our beings that *"the spirit of error,"* and *"the spirit of the devil"* is who lives in us, and is who we are expressing. This is a very strong statement, and one most people recoil at when put like that. However, the scriptures clearly say in Ephesians 2:1-4, that *"you hath he*

*quicken*ed, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience; Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in lust of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.” At the Fall, a Satanic spirit entered us by joining itself to our human spirits and that union becomes our very nature, or the very self we know ourselves to be.

None of us walk according to our own will, our own life, or our own minds. No, we humans have always been enslaved to, or joined to, another. Romans 6:17 calls us “*slaves of sin.*” A slave doesn’t do his own separate living; he lives under the control of another. Ephesians 2 says that all the lost have a spirit controlling them and they walk according to that spirit’s will. Jesus said to the unsaved Pharisees in John 8:44. “*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.*” *The Pharisees didn’t do their own lust; they were doing the lust of their father, Satan.* When Paul, addressed the backslidden in II Timothy 2:26, he says; “*If God peradventure will give them*

repentance to the acknowledging of the truth, and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him to do his (Satan's) will." (NAS)

While humans are indwelt by Satan we are not really fully human; we are sub-human. Satan binds us in our wills, our desires, our feelings, our thoughts and our emotions, while disease and death ravish our bodies. He inter-penetrates our whole being, spirit, soul, and body. Think of the human as being a sponge that is saturated with a Satanic spirit, and this spirit; is operating us.

Unsaved mankind, in his fallen condition, does not think of himself as being joined to a spirit. He does not know that this spirit is causing him to be the sinner that he is. In his ignorance and Satanic pride, he thinks of himself as being, *"JUST HIMSELF"* running his own life-being himself with nothing and no one other than himself living his life. It is only through the light of the scriptures that we can begin to see ourselves otherwise as the container/vessel-selves that we really are.

So how do we operate in our fallen and deceived condition? We operate as if we are independent, self-sufficient beings. We falsely think: "I live my own life; I think my own thoughts; I have my own self-sufficiencies; I am a self-empowering, self-generating, autonomous person, with a will of my own." Little do we know we are walking according to Satan's spirit--talking like

Satan, thinking like Satan, drawing from his power and his mind, and being controlled by him.

At what point did we become *“slaves of sin?”* Was it when we stole money out of our mother’s purse at the age of ten? No, the Bible tells us different in Romans 5:12, *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”*

Some folks have a hard time believing that a small baby is indwelt by a sinful nature, because they are so sweet and precious. Yet, given time, children end up being the most self-centered little creatures on earth. How did they learn how to lie to protect themselves, or learn to divide Mom from Dad in order to get their way? They didn’t learn it; it is inherently built in them to be self-centered because all of us are self-for-self beings in need of the new birth. All of lost mankind has a heart-shaped vacuum hungering to be filled. However, we try to fill up that hole with things, ambitions, power, sex, money, religions, relationships, and drugs. But no, only Jesus Christ can fill the hole and totally satisfy us.

I am often asked the question, “Is Satan omnipresent, and if not, how can he be in all of mankind? I can only give the Bible’s interpretation on that one. I John 4:6 declares that both, “the spirit of truth,” and the “spirit of error” are universal spirits, and man is indwelt with either one spirit, or the other spirit. The

satanic spirit of error entered man at the fall, and that spirit is of this world and is satanic, he is called "the god of this world." Ephesians 2:2-3 says that there is "*the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.*" Pretty clear. Another scriptures that gives us insights on the subject are in I John 3:12 & 5:19; "*Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother,*" and "*we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in the wicked one*" (NAS). Remember, spirit is not confined to time and space as bodies are. I think that our confusion comes because we think of Satan as here, but not there and vice versa. The satanic spirit is universal and can be anywhere, anytime, that is, in his God given realm. That is because there is no time nor space in the spiritual world.

Does it then mean that we humans don't need cleansing of our sins, or the forgiveness provided by the Cross of Christ? God forbid! Satan may be producing the sins, but we are the guilty sinners, whole-heartedly cooperating with the self-centered nature of the Spirit that indwells us.

Once at Christmas time, my four year old granddaughter Haylie said to me, "Mimi, you have lots of Jesus' all over your house" (I love Christmas nativities). Then she went on to say, "Mimi, Jesus is everywhere, and in everybody." I said, "No, not in everybody." She asked, "Why?" I hesitated to answer, then she

said, "I know Mimi, because someone else lives there." Just like Jesus said, "the little children shall teach us".

Here are some scriptures describing our lost condition in Satan: we were Spirits in prison (I Peter 3:19); *we contained the Spirit of error (I John 4:6); we were the children of the devil (I John 3:10); we contained Satan who is in this world (I John 4:4); we had the spirit that works in the children of disobedience (Eph. 2:2); we were vessels of wrath (Romans 9:22); we were slaves of sin (Rom. 6:17); Satan was our father and we do his lust (John 8:44); we were formerly darkness (Eph. 5:8); we were held by the powers of darkness (Col. 1:13); we were dead in our sins and uncircumcised flesh (Col. 2:13); none of us was righteous (Romans 3:10); we were altogether unprofitable and did not do good (Romans 3:12); our tongue is full of deceit. (Romans 3:13); our mouth is full of cursing and bitterness (Romans 3:14); destruction and misery were in our ways (Romans 3:16); we did not know the way of peace (Romans 3:17); we had a stony heart (Ezekiel 36:26); our hearts were deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9); the motions of sin worked in our members bringing forth death (Romans 7:5); and our minds were blinded*

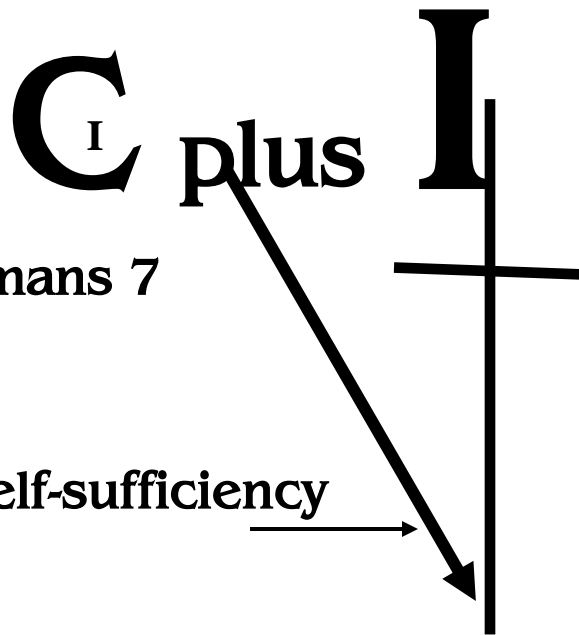
(II Corinthians 4:4).

Are you still convinced that people are basically good? Or, do you think that there are some good people and then there are bad people? Or, will you be honest enough to face the Biblical fact concerning the lost? If so, you will be ready to receive the Savior, Jesus Christ.

The good news is that *“God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them”* (II Corinthians 5:19). At the Cross, Jesus Christ has already provided the way of escape from Satan’s rule over us, and by His precious blood, He bought us back again from being the dwelling place of Satan. It is by the act of simple faith that we receive Him, and trust Him to be our Lord and Savior. When we dare to act by faith and receive Him, then the scriptures says, *“But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name”* (John 1:12).

Now to the next stage--our first steps in Christ.

Trying (Deluded-Self)



Let us move on to the second stage. In the first "I" we saw that Satan was indwelling us and causing us to be the sinners that we are. The human was created to contain and express the living God, not contain themselves. Man, God's top creation, suffers because his created human self is being misused by Satan. This suffering drives the hungry heart to Christ, the Savior. Happy is the day that man finds his way back home to his Father's house and the prodigal returns. The Gospel of grace is preached and he receives Christ. His sins are forgiven and he

has peace with God. The Gospel is an exchange of gods. Praise the Lord, the *"new man"* is birthed.

The Cross is the pivoting point in this whole process, and here, it stands out as the center power of transformation. It is through the Cross we Christians can say that we are crucified with Christ. It is through the Cross that we are *"dead to sin."* It is through the Cross we can say that we are *"dead to the law,"* and it is through the Cross we can agree with God that we are raised with Christ to Life itself. It is through the Cross we can say that we are seated with Christ far above principalities and powers in heavenly places. For the Cross delivers us from the powers of darkness and transforms us into newly created beings. It all was finished at the Cross, but how then do I experience this power and transformation? And why don't I automatically experience it?

Christians are always trying and striving to improve themselves. Instead of depending on the Spirit's transforming power, we Christians are trying to improve ourselves by our own self-effort. If we understood what the Bible declares to be true, then there is no self to improve. You can't improve a dead man. *"For ye are dead, and "Christ who is our life"* (Colossians 3:3-4). The way for the Spirit's transforming power to be activated in us is by simply *believing* what God says, instead of striving to become what we already have in Christ. Once we lay hold of the truth,

then the truth will lay hold of us and transform us into the new persons we already are in Christ.

We are not automatically experiencing this transformation because our minds have to be first cleansed from the pollution left over from the Fall. Deep in our consciousness, redeemed man still has the grave clothes from his former owner, Satan. We are like Lazarus coming forth out of the tomb, but after three days, I'm sure Lazarus' grave clothes stunk. And as long as we are operating from these dead grave clothes, even today **THEY STILL STINK.**

Now notice that there is a "C" with a little "I" in it. That represents the "new creation" which is Christ in you. The Bible in Colossians 1:27 says that the mystery of the Gospel is "*Christ in you the hope of glory.*" But we also see a big "I" after the plus. What does that mean? Most people think of Christianity as *Christ plus a PERFORMING ME.* We all know salvation is receiving Christ, but where is He? At the beginning, I might think, He is somewhere in my back pocket to be pulled out when I am in trouble or I feel weak.

Actually, the "*new man*" is Christ in union with our human spirits, and that is my new identity and new life. Yet, I'm functioning as if there is Christ in me, plus a great big "PERFORMING ME." That is a lie, and the root of the stench keeping us deluded to who we really are in Christ. In our

unsaved days, we thought we were an independent self, operating by self-sufficiency; and even now as a Christian we still think the same way.

The problem is that we don't know the answer to this question: *WHAT IS MAN?* If we did we would understand the human being is a helpless expression of someone else.

The Bible says that man is only a vessel--a cup and not the content (Romans 9:22). The Bible says the human is a branch, not the vine (John 15:5). The Bible says the human is a temple, not the god living in the temple (1 Corinthians 6:19). The Bible says the human is a wife, and not the husband (Romans 7:2-4). The Bible says the human is the body, not the head (Ephesians 1:22,23). And the Bible says that we are the slaves, and not the master (Romans 6:16,17). Yet we think we should become the Vine, the Content, the God living in the temple, the Husband, the Head, and the Master.

Don't we Christians wear bracelets saying: "W.W.J.D."? "What would Jesus do?" This means to most of us that we should imitate Jesus and do good things like He did. Aren't we trying to become like Jesus by our own self-effort? Isn't our dependency centered in on our own flesh power, and not on the power and life of the Vine, the Content, the God, the Husband, Head and the Master who indwells us?

These false interpretations concerning our humanity is the lie that Satan planted deep in our consciousness. We said in the beginning of this book that unsaved people walk like Satan

walks. We think like Satan thinks, and we express His nature--and not our own nature. This is exactly how Satan himself thinks. Isaiah 14:14 brings light to Satan's fall. His final proclamation about himself is that He would "*be like the most High.*" This is the pride of the creation trying to be like the Creator. He was trying to proclaim and define his own self, by himself. He is a liar and the "*father of lies.*"

Only God is independent; only God is self-empowered; only God is self-generated, and only God is autonomous. Yet, Satan thought that if he would separate himself from God, then he would be an independent-god with his own self-power. What a lie! The Kingdom of Satan's darkness came into being because of this lie. Satan was created "Lucifer," (a light-bearer), but he decided to be his own light. The light that was in him imploded inwardly and became darkness. That is why Satan is called the prince of devils, and I call him, "*the prince of darkness*" (Matt. 9:34).

Yet, we Christians still think like Satan, even though we have Christ. The danger of it all is that, "*as a man thinketh, so is he*" (Proverbs 23:7). It is important what we think, yet most Christians don't know that this kind of thinking is erroneous thinking.

We operate from what we think. We live by what we agree with in our minds. Our thinking can be from the mind of Christ, or our thinking can be stinking with Satanic thoughts. What a

catchy phrase, *“Stinkin’ thinkin’.”* No wonder Paul in Romans 7 cries out, *“O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?”* If we think that we have to keep God’s laws by our own self-effort, then sin will have power over us. That is a biblical promise. If we *“walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh”* is true, the reverse is also true. Walk in your own flesh powers and you *shall* fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Most of us go through life and never see what the root of the problem really is. Paul’s final release came when he saw that the problem was falsely thinking that he had a performing and powerful self of his own, and was able to do good by self-effort.

Doing good by self-effort is an expression of Satan and “dead works.”

The big “I” after the plus on the chart is not who we are. The big “I” is Satan disguised as a good, sufficient me.

The real truth is that I am a resurrected new creation in Christ, but as long as I think like Satan, I am still functioning in the “old man’s” lies, and I act *as if* I am an alive person when the Bible says in Colossians 3:3 that I am dead.

Exposing the lie is so radical, but so necessary. “Satan, you’re found out! Christ died to set me free from you.” Romans 8:3-4 says, *“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak though the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* Christ *“condemned sin in the flesh,”* in his own body at the Cross. *He was made sin that we might become His righteousness* (II Corinthians 5:21). What is sin in our flesh? It is Satan misusing our flesh by deceiving us into believing we are independent-selves. Christ delivered us from a “Satanic nature” (Satan-indwelt humanity) and replaced it with a *“Divine Nature”* (Christ indwelt humanity).

Obadiah 1:17 says that *“But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall ‘possess their possessions’.*” The only way to possess what Christ has already provided for us is to take a leap of faith and leap into the no-condemnation release of Romans 8. If you are still condemning yourself then you are falsely believing that there is a possibility of you producing your own righteousness. If we dare leap into no-condemnation then you are believing that Christ is your righteousness and He must manifest His righteousness

through your soul and body. The opposite of self-condemnation is self-acceptance. God wholly accepts you (Ephesians 1:6), so why shouldn't you accept you? What self is there to condemn, since you are dead, and Christ is the new you?

My new confession is this, "The real me is Christ living in my human form....I am spirit, soul and body joined to Christ's spirit, soul, and body and that forms a '*new me*'...I am not an independent-self, I am a dependent self, depending on Christ who is my life..."*I no longer live, but Christ lives in me and He expresses His life as me*"... While Jesus was on earth He never said he was the Father, yet He did say that he expressed the Father's life, will, words, and works, and said to Phillip in John 14 "*if you have seen me, you have seen the Father:*" (John 14:7-11).

A great example of this is what happens when a piece of iron is put in a red-hot fire. The fire so interpenetrates the iron that it is fire in iron form; yet they both maintain their distinctiveness. Jesus says in John 14:20, "*You shall know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.*"

I am not saying that we, the created vessel become the Creator God. No, the iron never becomes the fire, just like the fire doesn't become the iron, We can never become deity, however, Christ takes a form as me, as He lives and expresses His Love Nature through me, as if it were me, yet it is wholly Him expressing Himself through me.

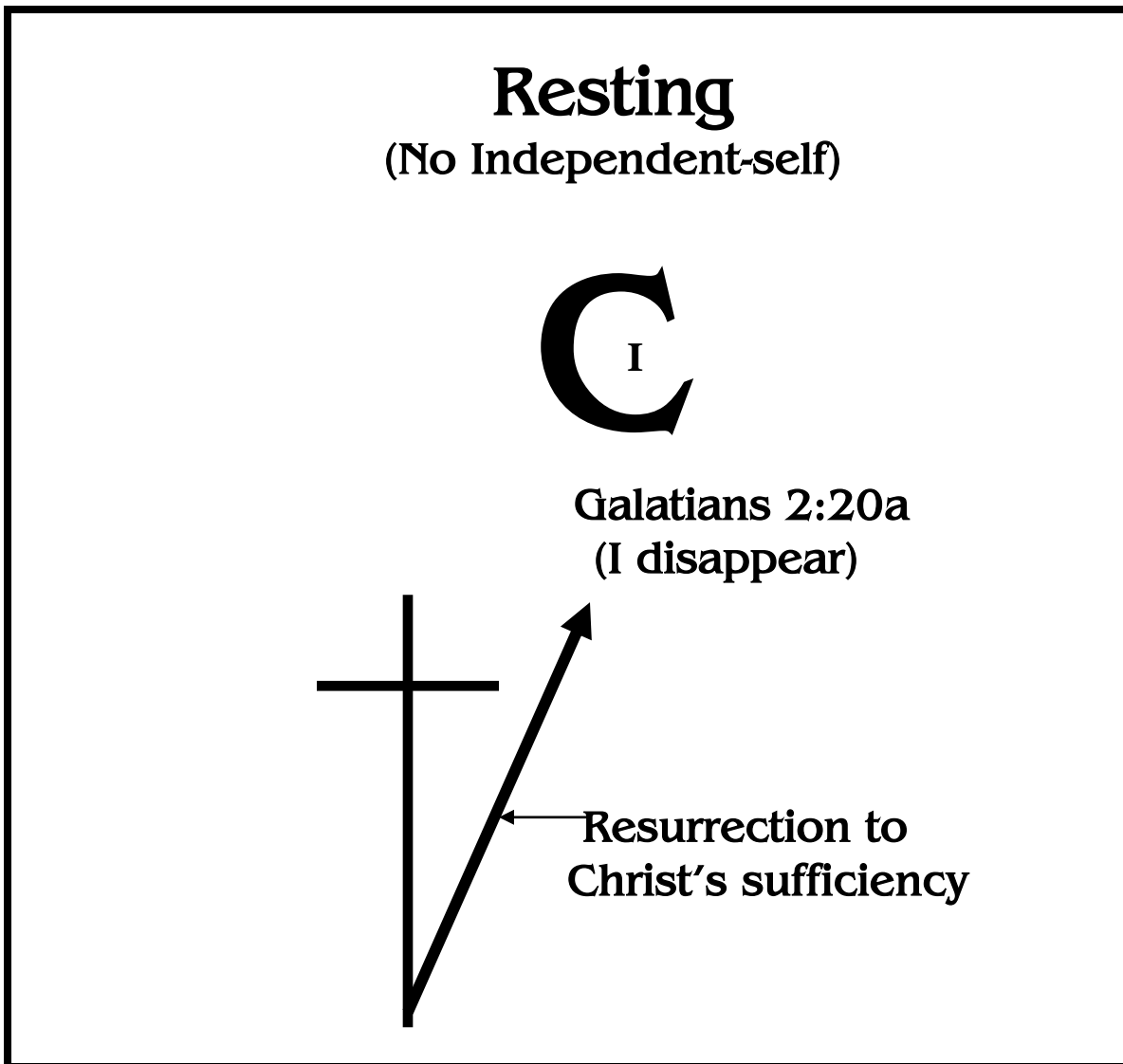
Personally I went through a second crises and experienced great defeat for a long time. I think that is healthy, otherwise I would have gone right back to trying to live the Christian life by myself. I had to be completely finished with a "self-acting-self." Sometimes we are in the death side of the Cross for a long time. God has to know that we will not jump back into independent-self sufficiency, so He leaves us in the, "**NOT I**, but Christ" stage, sometimes for a long time.

The "**Not I**," truth must be burned in our consciousness. Norman Grubb once wrote,

"Yet, the Cross has to be real before there can be a steady realization of the resurrection. It is a real death in experience, and probably there has to be a period when we are much more conscious of our having died with Him than having risen with Him. By no other means can we be understanding servants of Christ. We must have really tasted of the self-defeating activities of independent self in our redeemed lives and have really become soured on them. We must have come to some final point of desperation and despair to have leaned our lesson with an utter finality that this way of life, of us serving Christ rather than Him serving Himself in and by us, is a spill-over into our new lives of the great curse of the Fall, the delusion of self-sufficiency. It has to be a

revelation—that the ultimate form of sin is misused of self, just as it then can become a personal revelation that the misuse of self is what was removed in the Cross and is thus removed in us.”¹

The Holy Spirit is our sanctifier and He knows when we are ready to move into the next *'no-self'* stage.



¹ GOD UNLIMITED by Norman P. Grubb chapter 9, pg. 66.

“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” (Col. 3:3-4). Christ is not a part of our lives, HE IS OUR LIFE. His Holy Spirit joins with our human spirit and the two become one spirit (I Cor. 6:17). When I found myself in this no-self stage, I was so thankful not to have a self. All I knew of myself was I didn’t have to live any longer. I hated my self anyway. And rightly so, because unless we hate the self that tries to be good and fails we are not ready to see the root problem of that supposed good self. Little did I know that I was really hating Satan masquerading as a good me, and not my precious vessel-self anyway.

The Big “PERFORMING I” is not me, but “sin that dwelleth in me” (Romans 7:17). An imaginary cleaver must come between the precious human God-given self, and the satanic performing me that I have been operating from. As God divides the “New Man” truth from the “Old Man” lies, and the true human dependent vessel/self from the false performing Satan/self, only then does the light begin to dawn.

Paul cries out in Romans 7, *“It is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.”* The Cross has set me free from Satan

operating me in my fleshly members. Romans 6:6 says, "*The old self is crucified, in order that, the body of sin might be done away with.*" The old self is a Satan--driven self. The "*body of sin*" is the whole realm of the deadly works of self-effort expressed through us Christians who mistakenly operate from Satan's false dominion in our flesh. The "old self" is gone in Christ, but as long as I am living, as it were, (in myself), instead of (in Christ), the new liberated self is not experienced in my daily life.

By another act of simple faith in Christ, our deliverer, I can believe that I am already delivered and free, even when I haven't experienced it in my soulish experience. The Cross has done the finished work. No other work has to be done--no other work except one, that is, *the work of faith* which is hardly work. It is simply the act of receiving. Or it is simply agreeing with what God says to be true. Faith is the key and the bridge to experiencing freedom. What we take by faith becomes a living experience in us through the Spirit. It must come from the other side. But remember, it is "*your Fathers good pleasure to give you the kingdom*" (Luke 12:52).

Rest entered my soul. Jesus is *taking my place* now in my daily living. What a release! I no longer live. It is Jesus going to the grocery store; it is Jesus raising my children; it is Jesus fighting my temptations. There was no me there to do anything , but rest in Him.

Hebrews 4:9 promises us “*rest to the people of God.*” “*For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*” Then the Hebrews letter says something that seems contradictory, “*Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief*” (verse 11). “*Labor to enter into that rest?*” The Spirit showed me that our “labor” is our labor of faith. When Satan shouts at *us* to be responsible for doing good, we labor by faith and say, “Jesus, You live here in me, so You do it as me.” As my good friend, Fran Giles says, “Hit it, Jesus!” My responsibility is nothing more than, *my response to His ability.*

It is good practice to stand by faith instead of fretting and trying to become who we really already are. What irony! Now faith is the key. Nothing will happen, or be experienced until we function as faith people instead, of works people.

The interesting thing is that we know that we are saved by Christ alone apart from any works of our own, yet we don't *live* the Christian life by faith alone. What a contradiction, saved by faith, but living by works. Paul says, that living by my own self-effort is a deception, and even witchcraft. “*O, foolish Galatians, who has feed you witchcraft? that you should not obey the truth of faith in Christ alone. Have you received the New Birth, and the Holy*

Spirit, by the working keeping the law, or by just hearing simple faith in Christ? Are you so foolishly out of your mind? Have you begun in the Spirit of faith, but are you now made Spiritually complete by flesh performance? (Gal. 3:1-3). All right, I paraphrased this Galatians passage, but this is what Paul is saying. A pastor in California once asked his congregation how many were trying to live the Christian life? Most all raised their hand. The pastor boldly said you all need to repent. Trying to live the Christian life is the sin of unbelief. Christ is your life. That requires just one thing, and that is a leap of faith.

Take a leap into your new identity, the new you, and trust that Christ is your life. Happy is the man who doesn't condemn himself anymore. Happy is the man who knows Satan's voice of condemnation and doesn't believe his lies anymore. Usually we are so glad to be in this resting stage that we don't want anything else--but, no, there is one more adjustment. What! What next? We cannot be really happy with ourselves until we can fully accept our human self as a right self, and not until we can fully accept our humanity as God's asset instead of His liability, and that will take a miracle. But God is up to it.

Thus we are ready to find our way back home to our completeness in Christ, as well as our completeness as a human being “*To whom God would make known what is the glory of this*

mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory; Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus” (Col. 1:27-28). A perfect Christ living in a completed MAN! The perfect all, living in a perfect nothing. That is knowing oneness with Christ.

Being
(Right-Self)

I
CHRIST

Galatians 2:20b
(I re-appear)

We are to the final stage of restoration: a Christ-indwelt human being. We are not safe to *“get ourselves back”* until we have been through the crucible of striving self and worn ourselves out with trying. Then we will know we really can’t live the life. Jesus said in Matthew 16:25, *“Whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”* This means, whosoever shall loses his striving-self will truly find his life and true self in Christ. In stage three, we see that all we really lose is a *“phantom I,”* one that is not even really me. Yet it is the only self that I have ever known. So it is very severe to have *“suffer the loss of all things,”* as Paul testifies of in Philippians 3:8.

However, the day comes in our experience when we do get our human self back. There was never anything wrong with the human self. Our sense of wrongness comes from the delusion of independent-self. With the lie exposed and the truth believed, we are safe to get our self back.

Never did I even know my human self. I only knew it as something evil and wrong. Satan had so misused me that what I thought of myself was based on Satan's bondages in me. Now, I am rightly used by the Holy Spirit, and I come alive to a wonderful freedom. For the first time in my life I can now accept myself as a right self. My basic humanity (personality and intellect) doesn't change, yet my Christ-driven-self sure looks and feels different from my Satan-driven-self.

My consciousness changes from the third stage--'Christ with a disappeared self--to Christ in the background and my human self in the foreground.' "I" now go to the grocery, "I" go to the bank, "I" plan my day." Is it an independent "I"? NO, it is really He expressing Himself by me. Yet, I am not all the time conscious of Him. Does that sound dangerous? To some, yes, but not to me. It is hard trying to be conscious of Christ all the time, and we are not meant to be. But, *I'm* doing my business, *I'm* living my life. Now, who is that "I"? It is the new redeemed human *I*, operating with the Operator at the helm.

Jesus Himself, in the book of John, claims that I of my human self "can do nothing." But in essence says, "*what I see the Father do, I do*" (John 5:19). He also went through the no-self stage. But finally in John Chapter 14, He expresses an emphatic "I." "*I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life.*" Was it self-centered ego? No, it was a life laid down and taken up again, ego. His ego was totally given over to His Father, so it was other-love ego.

The divine nature in us is other love, not self-centered love. Never again is the point of life "*about me.*" I am a driven person, driven to be for others. Am I talking about the "old DOOR MAT" mentality? No, Jesus said, "No man takes my life from me, but I lay it down of myself" (John 10:18). I don't see Jesus taking anything off of anyone. The "new man" mentality is proclaimed by Paul in Colossians 1:29, "I also labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily." What was Paul striving and laboring to do? He labored to bring the Gospel of grace to the Gentiles as well as his brethren, the Jews. The Spirit was striving through Paul. That is much different from Paul trying and striving in the flesh. Does this life for others cost? You better believe it. Read II Corinthians 11:21-29 and see the "*sufferings of Christ*" experienced by Paul.

So now, we get our precious humanity back. This "right-self" consciousness fulfills the commandment Jesus gave to the

suspicious Pharisees (Matthew 22:37-39). *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart...and...love thy neighbor, as thyself.”*

Only when you experience self-acceptance, God’s way, not the way of psychology, will you truly love yourself. Now, we too, are trusted by God to be sons and friends of God.

Someone asked me one time, “Sylvia, do you love yourself?” She added, “Don’t answer quickly; think about it.” As I did what she said, I thought, “I don’t know! All I know is, I don’t hate myself anymore.” Why didn’t I know? I believe it is because my attention is not on *me* anymore. I use to obsess about me, but now I’m unconsciousness of myself. The answer to my friends question is really, “Yes” I do love myself, because I accept myself and then forget myself and just be. Blessed is the day when we don’t obsess about ourselves anymore.

What do I think about myself? Well, I think I can do anything. I believe I have the sufficiency to do all things. I have no fears; I have self-confidence; I think that I am wonderful. Is it just me being on an ego trip? No, it is Christ’s very own right-self consciousness. Am I saying that I never “*feel*” any of these feelings of weakness? No, I am still tempted at times to fear, to worry, to be jealous etc, but my temptations don’t rule me. Instead God uses them as “attention getters” in my life. Then I rightly use them as my opportunity for faith and to see what God is doing through them.

What a reversal in my consciousness. I used to think of myself as a failure. I was usually wrong; I was filled with insecurities; I was wimpy because I had no self-confidence; I never asserted myself because I thought of myself as not worth it. I was always fearful; I was always trying to get my husband to fulfill my insecurities. What a miserable me! But now, what a transformation! This is truly the "Liberating Secret." You are not fully liberated until you can love and appreciate your human self, as well as your human weaknesses-- seeing how opposites fit together as one (Romans 8:28). I'm *not afraid* of my human responses because I am safe--safe to be a free agent for the Holy Spirit to seek, save and heal those who are broken hearted, those who need deliverance, those who are held captive, those who are blind, and those who need liberation from satanic bruising. Praise the Lord, we come back as super human other-love beings.

A safe, free, mature son of God is a glorious being, and one that God Almighty destined to powerfully operate from the very throne of God. Let me end this part of the chart presentation by quoting a section from Paul Billheimer's book, "*Destined for the Throne.*" But before you freak out over Paul's definition of the 'new man,' I want you to know that his book has been foreworded by Billy Graham. What an endorsement!

'He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit' (I Corinthians 6:17). This union goes beyond a mere formal, functional, or idealistic harmony or rapport. It

is an organic unity, and "organic relationship of personalities." Through the new birth we become bona fide generated sons of God (I John 3:2), "partakers of the divine nature" (II Peter 1:4) begotten by Him, impregnated with His 'genes,' called the seed ("sperma") of God (I John 5:1, 18 and I Peter 1:3,23), and bearing His heredity. Thus, through the new birth, and I speak reverently, we become the 'next of kin' to the Trinity, a kind of "extension" of the Godhead. That this group outranks all other orders of created beings is attested by Paul's dramatic questions in I Corinthians 6:2-3: "Don't you know that someday we Christians are going to judge and govern the world? Don't you realize that we Christians will judge and reward the very angels in heaven?" Here as a completely new, unique, and exclusive order of beings which may be called a "new species." There is nothing like it in all the kingdoms of infinity. This is the order of beings which God envisioned when He spoke the worlds into being. This is the order of beings which Paul called 'the new man' (Ephesians 2:15), the new humanity destined through the new birth to be the aristocracy of the universe. They form a new and exclusive royalty, a new ruling hierarchy who will also constitute the Bride, the Lamb's Wife. This order is divinely designated to be co-ruler, co-

sovereign, co-administrator and a judicially equal partner to the throne by virtue of redemption and wedlock with the King of kings.

Nothing can ever dim the fact that infinity separates the Creator from the created. Christ is the eternally unique and only begotten Son, 'the brightness of (God's) glory, and the express image of his person.'" But from all eternity God purposed to have a family circle of his very own, not only created but also generated by His own life, incorporating His own seed, "sperma," "genes," or heredity. Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own (in a genetic sense), through what Christ would do for us' In order to obtain this personal, organic family relationship, God conceived the infinitely vast and infinitely wise plan of creation plus redemption through the new birth, in order to bring "many sons to glory."

Christ is the divine Prototype after which this new species is being made. They are to be exact copies of Him, true genotypes, as utterly like Him as it is possible for the finite to be like the Infinite. As sons of God, begotten by Him, incorporating into their fundamental being and nature the very "genes" of God, they rank above all other created beings and are elevated to the most sublime height possible short of

becoming members of the Trinity itself. Although, Christ is the unique and only begotten Eternal Son, yet He does not retain His glory for Himself alone for He has declared, "The glory which thou gavest me, I have given them" (John 17:22). Therefore, the redeemed will share His glory, His rulership, and His dominion as truly responsible princes of the Realm.

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