

Fulfill Your “Nature”?



God created man with two “natures”: (1) an inward man, following the law of his mind (Romans 7:23-24) which delights in the law of God and which of itself by nature can decide in moral matters what is right (Luke 12:57; Romans 2:14; 1 Corinthians 11:14); and (2) an outward man of flesh (Romans 7:25) which has no more religion than the beasts and knows nothing but to indulge itself. It is not amenable to the law of God (Romans 8:7) and cannot be, for flesh has no reason. It should not be expected that any moral goodness could dwell in the flesh (Romans 7:8) or of badness either. Left to itself, by nature, the flesh will seek self-indulgence (Ephesians 2:3). But the fleshly part of man is not sinful in itself. It is not immoral, but amoral: it does not know what morals are. Given the lead, its direction is immorality, but it was not “created” in any way with sin. All that God made was very good.

Some women gave up their brass mirrors to construct a tub for men to wash in—who were these men?

Our parents bring us into a world of sin (Psalm 51:5). Our parents bring us into the land, a land of the English language and of sin, but we have to learn both the language and sin (Cf. Acts 2:8). Psalm 51:5 is vivid poetical language, as is Psalm 58:3. Literally we do not speak as soon as we are born, nor that soon go astray, but the fact is that we are *not* born astray and as we learn right from wrong we go astray. Then our sins, not Adam’s, separate between our God and us (Isaiah 59:1-2). Our fathers’ eating sour grapes will not set our teeth on edge (Ezekiel 18). We receive the effects of many misdeeds of our fathers (Exodus 20:5), but never the guilt (Deuteronomy 24:16). We were whole and perfect when we were created till sin was found in us (Ezekiel 28:15). The Lord forms the spirit in each of us, and he does not start us out as sinners (Zechariah 12:1). He starts us in a way that Jesus thought fits us for heaven. (Matthew 19:14). Romans 5:12 is not discussing those without the use of their minds, nor those who do not know their right hand from their left, but it is discussing those who have “on their own” sinned (Romans 3:9ff). Which nature do you fulfill?

Scriptures to consider... Matthew 26:41 “Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Ecclesiastes 7:29 “Behold, I have found only this, that God made men upright, but they have sought out many devices.” Genesis 8:21 “And the LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, ‘I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.’” Ezekiel 28:15 “You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you.” Romans 7:8-11 “But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; for sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me.” Which “nature” do you fulfill?

To our valued visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few “family” announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord’s Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and gospel preaching from the Bible. Any response is up to you and will be kindly received. We are glad you decided to worship God with us on this first day of the week!

Birthday/Anniversary Lunch: Second Sunday of the month... (11/11)
NMCCH: Spray & Wash and Bar Bath Soap (pick up in **April 6, 2019**)
Friday Bible Study: 7 to 8 PM, yes, every Friday ... Lord willing!
Gospel Meeting: at Howe (11/11-14), “Do Not Cast Away Your Confidence.”