

MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

Christians Ought To Be Transformed Into The God-Man

"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit." I Cor. 2:14
 "I, brethren, ...speak unto you...as unto carnal..." I Cor. 3:1.
 "I...speak unto you as unto spiritual." I Cor. 3:1

I am three persons - so is every man: there is the man who my friends think me to be; there is the man who I believe myself to be; there is the man who God knows me to be.

Ideally, every "Christian" ought to have been transformed into the God-man, i.e. to have the mind of Christ - Phil.2:5 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus," to walk in His way - Romans 8:1 "Walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit", and be in-dwelt and governed by God-I Cor. 3:16 "Ye are the temple of God...the Spirit of God dwelleth in you..."

The truth of the matter though is that there are warring factions within every one of us. Psychologically, we are, to a degree-schizophrenic: we are torn between good and evil and, like Dr. Jekyll many so-called Christians are righteously by day, and like Mr. Hyde evil within by night. There are inner forces - satanic and godly which strive to possess the individual Romans 7:21 "When I would do good, evil is present with me." Let no man deceive himself as his reputation impresses his peers for in the words of Samuel - "man look at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart."

Paul divides man into three classes: 1. Psuchikos - the sensuous, natural, un-renewed man. He has no experienced the transforming power of the new birth and though he be learned, eloquent, fascinating, cultural and does good things, the spiritual content of the Scriptures is hidden from him. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God."

2.Sarkikos - the fleshy, carnal man. Renewed through his belief in and acceptance of Christ; he has "a zeal of God, but not according to

knowledge." He continues to walk after the flesh and therefore the carnal man remains a babe in Christ.

3.Pneumatikos - the renewed, Spirit-filled man, walking in the Spirit and in full communion with God.

There is little to be said of man's first nature - for he is conceived in sin, and shapened in iniquity, the seed of the first nature is sown in dishonor and pleasure. Of persons who live in pleasure the Bible says they are dead while they live. Sin and corruption is the first fruit of the natural man and an eternity in hell is his portion.

The carnal man is an improve-

ment on the first man still fleshy. He appears to be spiritual and is guided by codes of ethics and principles established by men. He demonstrates spiritual gifts, but is void of

spiritual graces. He is carnally minded: Romans 8:5-8. Carnally limited and immature: I Corinthians 3:1, Carnally enslaved Romans 7:14. Carnally doomed: Galatians 6:8 "He that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption."

But thanks be to God that there is a spiritual man. Born of the Spirit-John 3:6; Led by the Spirit, Romans 8:14. Has the mind of the Spirit, Romans 8:6. Is renewed by the Spirit, Ephesians 4:23. Filled with the Spirit-Galatians 5:18. Freed by

the Spirit-Romans 8:2

This spiritual man bears the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) which manifest as he feeds upon spiritual (Matthew 5:16); Enjoys spiritual blessings (James 1:17). Every good and perfect; awaits a spiritual re-union with Christ (I Thes. 4:16-17)

We have God's promise of blessings for those who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit (Romans 8:1) and the seal of the Spirit of God (Eph. 1:13) and so I am encouraged to let this Spirit lead me until that day when the redeemed shall come forth from every nation singing a song that the angels cannot sing - Redeemed - washed in the blood of the Lamb.



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