

# **WEEK 4: TWO NATURES— PART ONE: THE NEW YOU DAY 1: THE NEW NATURE**

Read Galatians 5:13-18.

Did you know you have **two natures** (personalities or selves) now?

You have had the **old nature** since you were born. You have a **new nature** since your new birth (you became a Christian). One nature is selfish and wants honor for itself. The other nature tries to permit **God's love to show through you**.

Your Bible study, starting now and in the future, will teach you new things about these two natures. You have lived with your old nature (selfish) for all of your life. You do not need to learn about it first. This week you will study what the Bible teaches about **your new nature**.

The old nature in you is like gravity. Gravity pulls things down. It always works. You cannot fly or even float off the ground because of gravity. Your old nature holds you down.

The new law is like the wings on an airplane. It causes the airplane to fly as the wing moves through the air. This always works if everything is done right. The airplane will fly as long as you follow the right directions. The new nature works in your life

to cause God's love to go through you and to help you win the struggle with sin. The **old nature**, like gravity, will pull you down anytime you do not allow the **new nature** to work in your life.

Find and read Galatians 5:13-18. You will see in verses 13-14 an important word used two times. It is a word you have studied more than once in your SURVIVAL KIT. This word tells how **your new nature** works in your life as a Christian. What is that word?

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One way your new nature works in **love** is through using one of your gifts, the gift of **giving**. Do you remember the verse you learned last week about the kind of giver God loves. Write here 2 Corinthians 9:7.

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Yes, your new nature works in **love**. But not your old nature. There are some things in Galatians 5:15 that show the old nature is in control. What are those things?

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Paul talked about people hurting one another in Galatians 5:15. It is terrible to see people working that way. Paul explained in verse 17 how that can happen. Read that verse from the **New Life Version**, "These things our old selves want to do are against what the Holy Spirit wants. The Holy Spirit does not agree with what our sinful old selves want. These two are against each other. So you cannot do what you want to do"

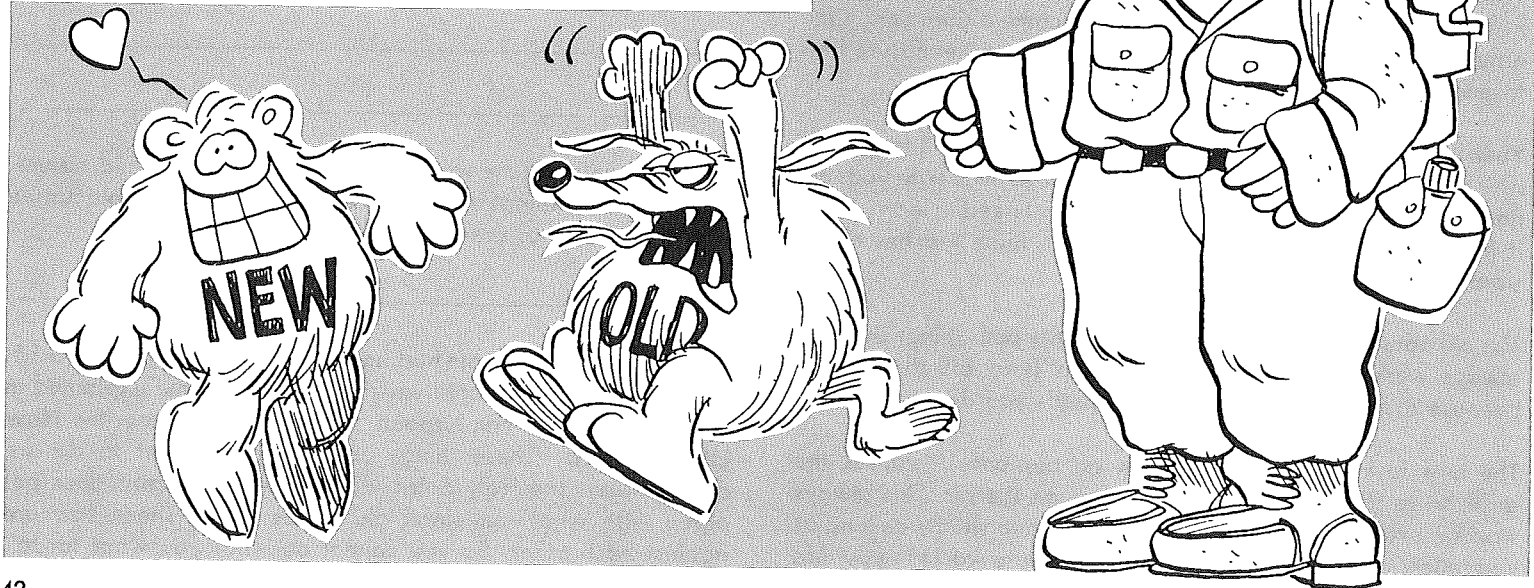
(Gal. 5:17, NLV).

Read the verses again but change *Holy Spirit* to *new nature*. Do you understand after reading the verse this way that it is your decision about which nature will be in control of your life? Choosing either nature will prevent you from doing what the other nature wants you to do.

Galatians 5:16 tells the requirement for the new nature to be in control of your life. What is that requirement?

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Tomorrow you will learn more about what it means to "**walk in the Spirit.**" Start memorizing Galatians 5:16. It's one of your memory verses for this week.



**WEEK 4: TWO NATURES—  
PART ONE:  
THE NEW YOU  
DAY 2: YOU BELONG TO YOUR  
CHOICE**

Read Romans 8:10-11; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 2:9-10.

You began yesterday to learn Galatians 5:16—about your **new nature**. Write as much of that verse as you can remember.

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Who controls your new nature? (Gal. 5:16).

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We are talking about the whole person when we talk about a person's **spirit**. We mean his thoughts, his actions, his attitudes, and his desires. Your **spirit** has been controlled by your **old nature** since you were born. You have been a slave to your old nature. This was done to honor yourself.

But notice that the word **Spirit** (Gal. 5:16) has a capital **S**. You broke the old nature's control in your life when you became a Christian. You now have a **new nature**. Christ living in you controls your life through His Holy Spirit. The old nature wants to

honor itself. The **new nature** wants to **cause God's love to flow through you**.

Find and read Romans 8:10-11. Christ is in you. What is your situation?

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You should have written that you are **alive**. You have the **life of Christ** now in yourself. You should have written that you have **righteousness**. You are now **right with God**. Christ lives in you and controls you.

Don't think your new nature is an "**it**." You are given the **name** in Galatians 2:20 of the one who is your new nature. What is that name? \_\_\_\_\_

Finish this sentence from that verse. I have died with **Christ**.

He now \_\_\_\_\_ in me!

**Christ lives in you**. That is a wonderful thought. And you live through faith in the "Son of God." You can remember the word **faith** in this way:

**F ORSAKING  
A LL  
I  
T RUST  
H IM!**

What do you think Galatians 2:20 means when it says that you are supposed to live by **faith** in the Son of God?

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Did you use any of these words in your answer?

**surrender   give up   yield   Lord   Master   control**

It is your own decision that your nature, Christ, can control your life. You must fully give yourself to Him. You must decide to let Him be your Lord and Master. **You belong to your choice** when you decide to let Christ have control. You become Christ's and not your own.

Remember your hand. Your **thumb** is **one**. You remember that this helps you remember \_\_\_\_\_. You should remember the number \_\_\_\_\_ when you see your **forefinger** if you remember **1 BODY** when you see your thumb. What **"2"** things are you now learning about? 2 \_\_\_\_\_.

Your **"2 NATURES"** are discussed in one of the first two verses you were supposed to memorize. Do you still remember 2 Corinthians 5:17 about the "old" and "new"? Write that verse here.

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Write here the parts you know about the hand.

THE THUMB: \_\_\_\_\_

THE FOREFINGER: \_\_\_\_\_

THE HAND ITSELF: \_\_\_\_\_

Here's what you should have written:

THE THUMB: 1 Body THE FOREFINGER: 2 Natures

THE HAND ITSELF: Christ living in me and controlling everything

Colossians 2:9-10 talks about Christ living in us as our new natures. Read those verses. Decide what His living in you really means.

\_\_\_\_\_A. If Christ lives in you, so does all the fulness of God.

\_\_\_\_\_B. If Christ lives in you, so does all the power of God.

\_\_\_\_\_C. Both of the above.

Jesus Christ is your new nature. He has come to live in you. He brought the **full Holy Spirit** to be in you. All the power of God himself has been put in you. Christ does not **bring** the power. He himself is the power. He has not come to cause you to fail. He has come to cause you to know that God's power can help you be successful in your Christian life.

Remember today in your life that **you belong to your choice**. Choose the new nature of Christ today. See how He can use your **serving** and **giving**. Pray right now. Give Him control of your life today for His purposes.

**WEEK 4: TWO NATURES—  
PART ONE:  
THE NEW YOU  
DAY 3: UNDER CHRIST'S  
CONTROL**

Read Colossians 3:1-7.

Understand once again that **Christ lives in you**. He himself is the new nature you have been given. You may often want to ask Christ to give you something like love, power, and gentleness. He does not **give** you these things. He is these things. He is in you!

He will let love, power, and gentleness show through your life if you let Him control your life. He does not give you His **skills**. He gives you **Himself!** A good example is that He did not give you a glass of water. He gives you the water well. He has given you the place the water came from. Instead of giving you things you want, He gives you **the place those things come from**. That is Jesus Christ Himself.

The characteristics (personality) of Christ (your new nature) is shown clearly in your second memory verses this week (Gal. 5:22-23). Have you already cut out a card and started to memorize it? You may use the verses on the page you were given. Or, you may use your own Bible translation.

Three things about Christ's personality are listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Try to match each one with a different word that has the same meaning.

**PATIENCE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FAITHFULNESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SELF-CONTROL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Did you write "**longsuffering**," "**faith**," and "**temperance**"? Your other memory verses for this week also say something about self-control or temperance and about Christ's Holy Spirit in your life. Can you write Galatians 5:16 on these lines?

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What Bible translation are you using to memorize Galatians 5:16 and Galatians 5:22-23? \_\_\_\_\_

The apostle Paul in Colossians 3:1-7 told more about your new nature. Read these verses now. Then read Colossians 2:12-13. How does Colossians 2:12 help you understand the idea "risen" or "raised to life" that Paul used in Colossians 3:1?

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**Remember:** Your baptism does not **give** you your new nature. You already have Christ living in you. Your baptism is a picture of what has finished happening to you. Did you write something

like this on the lines above? "My old life had been buried with Christ, and I am raised to a new life with Christ."

Now focus on Colossians 3:3. Look at the verses you read yesterday. Some were from Romans. Some were from Colossians. One was from Galatians. Which verse is most like Colossians 3:3?

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Did you write **Galatians 2:20**? Do you agree that this verse means almost the same as Colossians 3:3?

Paul said three times in these verses that you are supposed to make a personal choice as a Christian. What choices are you supposed to make?

**VERSE 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VERSE 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VERSE 5:** \_\_\_\_\_

Here's how the **New Life Version** says these choices: "Keep looking for the good things of heaven. . . . Keep your minds thinking about things in heaven. Do not think about things on the earth. . . . Destroy the desires to sin that are in you."

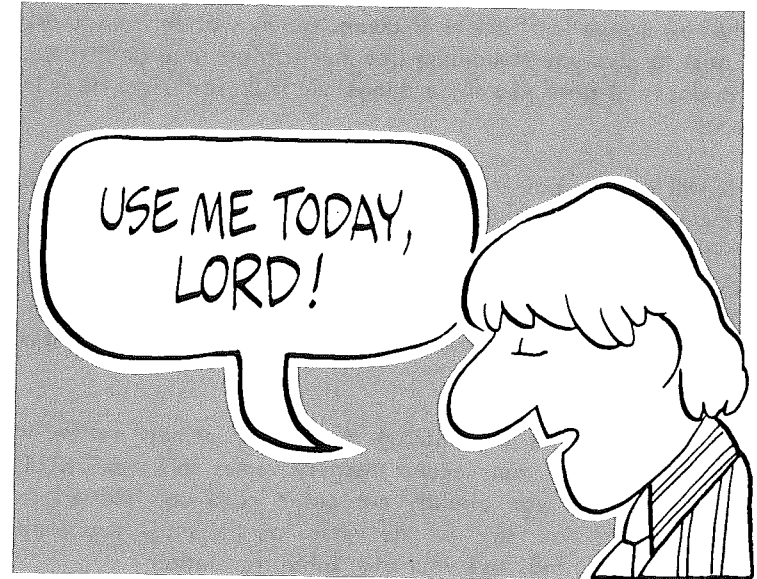
Think about what you can learn from these verses. Decide what promise you can make for your life today. Pray about your decision for today. Write it on the lines.

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You might as a Christian want to **use** your new nature to do things you think are good things. No, you do not use Christ. Christ uses you. You only make the decision to let Christ have control of your spirit, your mind, your emotions, and your body.

"Keep looking for the good things in heaven. . . . Keep your minds thinking about things in heaven. Do not think about the things on the earth. . . . Destroy the desires to sin that are in you" (Col. 3:1,2,5, NLV). These commands to decide show your part in the work of your new nature. Your only focus on Christ. Then He is able to let His love work through you to use your skills (gifts) where He wants to use them! **A WONDERFUL WAY TO LIVE!**



**WEEK 4: TWO NATURES—  
PART ONE:  
THE NEW YOU  
DAY 4: CHRIST WITHIN**

Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-10; 5:14-18.

The following two words are important for Christians. They are about your **new nature**.

**CONTROLLER**

**CONTAINER**

Paul told us in 2 Corinthians about these words and what they mean. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-18.

In 2 Corinthians 5:14 the **King James Bible** uses the word **constraineth**. A more recent Bible uses **controls**. That verse says that the **controller** of your life should be

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Second Corinthians 5:14-15 says that something causes Christ's

love to become the controller of your life? What causes **Christ's love** to become the **controller**?

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Did you write something like this? "Christ died for me; therefore, my old self is dead. I now let Christ's love control me."

Saying 2 Corinthians 5:17 should be easy for you now. Try to say it without stopping. Then write it in your own words.

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One person wrote 2 Corinthians 5:17 this way: "Anyone, no matter who he is, has a new life when he lives in Christ. What used to be there is gone. Everything is now new."

Second Corinthians 4:6-10 also talks about your new nature. Read those verses

now. Which verse uses the example of a **container**? Verse \_\_\_\_\_ What in verse 7 is inside the container?



You will have success in your Christian life because there is **treasure** in the container. This is because Christ is in the container—you. These verses use four comparisons to explain about your success in Christian living. Write them here.

WE ARE

BUT WE ARE NOT

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Here are the answers from the **New Life Version**. Other Bibles use different words that have the same meaning.

WE ARE

BUT WE ARE NOT

pressed on every side

we still have room to move

often in much trouble

never give up

people make it hard for us

left alone

knocked down

destroyed

There's no doubt about it. Becoming a Christian is something that gives you a new nature. You can now let Christ's love control you. You are a **container** for a new life—**Christ's life in you**.

You are supposed to let that life **control** you. You are not supposed to live for yourself. Instead, you live for Christ. You

give Him the freedom to use you. Second Corinthians 4:7 compares you to a clay pot. The clay pot was used in Bible times to hold valuable things. The clay pot itself was not expensive. It became valuable because of what was inside it. **You** are not a clay pot. You are a person. God does not take your personality away or say you are worthless. Christ, living in you, makes you more valuable to God.

Yesterday you started learning Galatians 5:22-23. It lists the fruit that Christ's Spirit will cause to happen in you. Can you write the nine parts of the fruit of the Spirit?

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Read 2 Corinthians 4:6 one more time. Jesus Christ's life in you shows you God's nature. Many people have tried to understand God without letting Him into their lives. They always fail to understand. **ONLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE NEW NATURE FROM CHRIST CAN UNDERSTAND GOD.**

Remember that some of your friends may be thinking you have become a "religious fanatic" (crazy from religion). It is impossible for your friends who are not saved to understand the things you experience.

**Prayer** is fellowship that happens between you and the Father in heaven. This happens because Christ lives in you. As you share things with Him, that is **prayer**. It is a natural activity for a Christian. Don't make it hard. Just know that prayer is **sharing** with God. Take time now to pray and keep thinking about this idea.



**WEEK 4: TWO NATURES—  
PART ONE:  
THE NEW YOU  
DAY 5: LET CHRIST BE LORD**

Read Galatians 5:22-25; Romans 8:26-28.

An apple tree gives **apples**. An apple tree cannot give **peaches**. It is by nature an apple tree.

Your **new nature** also shows fruit. This fruit is listed in a verse you should know by now. Write it on these lines.

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Check your memory of Galatians 5:22-23 to be sure it is correct. Notice that the fruit is not what you do. It is what you **are**. The fruit describes things about your **character**, not your **actions**.

Which one of the nine things is **impossible** for you to copy without God? Which one do you not have and feel you need the most? Underline it in the verse above.

Do you believe Christ can become **all** of these things in you? Sure He can. New Christians often wonder how they can be sure they are saved. The answer to that question is based on a fact: You have given your life to a God you can trust. He promised to forgive your sins if you asked Him. **YOU ASKED HIM. HE DID IT.**

Now that He has kept His **promise**, you can be sure He will also **work** in your life. You should now know that some of the fruit of the Spirit—things you cannot copy or do yourself—are now showing in your life. You can be sure that Christ is living in you when you see these things.

Now find and read Romans 8:26-28. Look at verse 26. Do you have to tell Christ that you are weak with a specific thing? Why or why not?

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Never let yourself use an old, worn-out excuse, “I don’t pray much because I don’t know how I ought to pray.” Christ’s spirit in you can communicate your thoughts and feelings in silent prayer. You must let Him. Two recent Bible translations say that the Spirit prays for us “in groans that words cannot express” (Rom. 8:26, GNB), and “with sounds that cannot be put into words” (Rom. 8:26, NIV).

Romans 8:27 gives us more support for what verse 26 says. Write the same word two times to finish this paraphrase of Romans 8:27.

\_\_\_\_\_, who searches human hearts, can understand

what the Spirit means,

because the Spirit prays only according to the will of \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 8:28 tells the result of your new nature controlling your life. Be sure to read this verse in a recent Bible translation. The word *God* should be in verse 28 **two times**. Read Romans 8:28 in a recent Bible translation. Mark which sentence is closest to being right.

\_\_\_\_\_ Everything becomes good for people who love God.

\_\_\_\_\_ God makes everything become good for people who love God.

You marked the second sentence. Right? God doesn't just let things happen. He takes active control of your life as you let Him have control through Christ.

By now you should know well the parts of the hand. Can you fill in the blanks to show what you have learned?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Parts of Salvation
4. Places for Authority
5. Five-and-Five Principle

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

As you wrote "**1 BODY**," did you remember your two memory verses? Try writing them now: Romans 12:4-5 and 1 Corinthians 12:18.

As you wrote "**2 NATURES**," did you remember two more verses? Say Galatians 5:16 and Galatians 5:22-23.

There is a decision you must make because you are a Christian. It is to let Jesus be Lord in your life or not. You must make this decision every day, every hour. His nature shows the fruit of the Spirit in you when you let Him take control of your life. You do not have to struggle to become like Jesus. You let Him be Jesus Christ, **LIVING IN YOU AND CONTROLLING EVERYTHING. WHAT A WONDERFUL LIFE!**

