

# ROOTS

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## *Taking a Look at the Underbelly of What Sources Our Faith*

### *OVERCOMING THE “CARNAL” SIDE OF LIFE*

#### I. AS YOU HAVE RECEIVED CHRIST – WALK IN HIM!

A. **Colossians 2:6-7** “<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” (NIV)

1. How did we receive Christ?

#### II. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SPIRITUAL AND “CARNAL” CHRISTIAN

A. **1 Corinthians 3:1-3** “*HOWEVER, BRETHREN, I could not talk to you as to spiritual [men], but as to nonspiritual [men of the flesh, in whom the carnal nature predominates], as to mere infants [in the new life] in Christ [unable to talk yet!]* <sup>2</sup>*I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not yet strong enough [to be ready for it]; but even yet you are not strong enough [to be ready for it],* <sup>3</sup>*For you are still [unspiritual, having the nature] of the flesh [under the control of ordinary impulses]. For as long as [there are] envying and jealousy and wrangling and factions among you, are you not unspiritual and of the flesh, behaving yourselves after a human standard and like mere (unchanged) men?”* (AMP)

1. A “carnal” Christian is one who acknowledges Christ but allows their own \_\_\_\_\_ to guide their life. This person becomes (or remains) self-controlled which results in fruitlessness and defeat.

B. **Galatians 5:15-17** “<sup>15</sup> *If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.* <sup>16</sup> *So I say, **live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*** <sup>17</sup> *For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. **They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.***” (NIV)

1. It is important to realize that these two do not co-exist peacefully! When you lean into one – you disavow the other!
2. When you surrender to the “flesh” or carnal-led life, you are then easily influenced by **the deeds of the flesh**:
  - a. **Galatians 5:19-21** “<sup>19</sup> *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;* <sup>20</sup> *idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions,*

- b. (Cont.) <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (NIV)
3. **Galatians 5:22-25** “<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> **Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.** <sup>25</sup> **Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.**” (NIV)
  - a. The “spiritual” Christian allows \_\_\_\_\_ will to guide him/her. They actively pursue Jesus’ lordship **by yielding to His will**. This results in fruitfulness and sanctification.
    - i. **I John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (NIV)
    - ii. The practice of 1John does not imply merely confessing our sins but also forsaking them.

### III. PERSEVERANCE LEADS TO OVERCOMING – THE BIRTHRIGHT OF EVERY CHRIST-FOLLOWER

- A. **2 Timothy 2:20-21** “<sup>20</sup> In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. <sup>21</sup> If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.” (NIV)
  1. The goal of every believer is to be a sanctified vessel \_\_\_\_\_ for His purposes and His timing. That is true submission and the ultimate end of the very salvation given to us.

#### B. RENEWING OUR MINDS

1. **Romans 12:1-2** “<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not **conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (NIV)
  - a. The word conform (suschematizo) actually means “**to fashion oneself after.**” It lays stress on the **outward**. Therefore the Word of God commands us to not fashion ourselves after this world’s behavior which identifies itself by outward expression.

- b. The word transformed (metamorphoo) actually means “**to undergo a complete change.**” However this word lays the stress on ***inward*** change. As a result of the new birth – the transformation begins and is further progressed through sanctification. That sanctification moves along through the “renewing of the mind.”
  - i. Old thought patterns are \_\_\_\_\_ through the Word of God and replaced with the mind of Christ. This of course results in behavioral changes as the inward moves outward!
  - ii. **Ephesians 4:22-23** “*22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind.*” (NAS)

2. As you mature – you must progressively seek more renewal of your mind and attitudes. Some of those attitudes that you must cultivate in your growing relationship with Christ:

- a. **Matthew 16:24** *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."* (NIV)

**i. SELF-DENIAL**

- b. **Matthew 20:25-27** *25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave"* (NIV)

**i. SERVANT'S HEART** (Denying self-exaltation)

- c. **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** “*24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*” (NIV)

**i. SELF-DISCIPLINE**

- d. **Matthew 11:12** *“From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.”* (NIV)

**i. TENACITY FOR THE KINGDOM**

- e. **Hebrews 12:4-7** *“4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” 7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?”* (NIV)

**i. ACCEPTING AND ENDURING GODLY DISCIPLINE**

- f. **Philippians 3:12-15** *“12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. 15 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things...”* (NIV)

**i. ADVANCEMENT**