

*Main Idea: As Christ will be all or nothing, so also our redemption is total or a fiction.*

Introduction: What do you call the second-place finisher in a contest?

**1 Corinthians 9:24**

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

**PRAY AND READ.**

Intro: Last week was difficult – several indicated it was a lot to chew on and I expressed it as a difficult needle to thread.

Go over those ideas, add some clarity, along with some new nuance and application as we cover two verses we skipped over.

**1. Two Natures (radically disparate)**

A. Children of God (v. 2) vs. Children “of the devil” (v. 8)

i. Nothing in common / No fellowship / No mixture

a) **2 Corinthians 6:14**

... what fellowship has *righteousness* with *lawlessness*?  
And what communion has light with darkness?

b) **John 8:38–44**

I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.” (*mutually exclusive categories based on parentage*) They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. You do the deeds of your father.” Then they said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My

word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

c) **1 Corinthians 6:9–11**

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you.** But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

ii. Natures war for supremacy in the believer

a) **Romans 7:16–23**

If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

b) **Ephesians 4:22–24**

that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

## 2. The Integrity of Being and Doing

A. “Do not be deceived” – evidently there are always those who claim to *be* other than their *behavior* would indicate; Scripture everywhere militates against

B. Responsibility and joy of living according to the new nature

i. **Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

ii. **Galatians 5:16–26**

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

iii. **Romans 6:1–4**

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

iv. **James 2:18**

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

a) 1 John 3:7-8

b) **Matthew 7:15–20**

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

*(1) Notice: “ravenous wolves” in “sheep’s clothing” – throughout, “doing” is a full orbed obedience; a heart issue*

C. (Above is call to exhibit:) Our identity is in Christ – as Children of God

i. Refer back to Romans 7 (no longer I who do it...) and Galatians 2 (no longer I who live...)

ii. Peter – **Matthew 16:13–23**

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ. From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders

and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

- a) *You* are Peter... Get behind me *Satan* (severity & grace)
- b) Notice: the subtle, “loving” sin of Peter is no less Satanic than gross sin – anything & everything that crosses God’s purpose/will is from the pit of Hell

### 3. Application

#### A. Current debate (Thursday)

- i. Amendments to our BCO focus on identity: Is it acceptable (for an officer) to mix identities, to modify his “in Christ” identity with an adjective referencing remaining sin, the Satanic old nature?

- a) Romans 7 – “No longer I who do it...”

- b) **1 Corinthians 6:11**

- And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

- c) Peter – what he sought to do, hinder Christ in His mission, was Satanic – was Peter a “Satanic Christian?”

- d) **1 Corinthians 6:15–17**

- Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

- (1) *Is Christ a “Satanic Christ?”*

#### B. Church Discipline

- i. No one is excommunicated for adultery, embezzlement, drunkenness, fornication, character assassination by gossip, or tax evasion – but only for refusal to repent. When confronted, called to repentance
  - a) “I can’t help it; this is who I am.”
  - b) “I like it; and I don’t see anything wrong with it.”
  - c) Failure to repudiate sin, to distance one’s *self* from it, to stand by it rather than repent from it

C. Assurance (from v. 8b)

- i. Grounded in Christ’s intention and work
  - a) If Christ will be anything, He will be everything
  - b) He did not come to compromise, to mitigate, curb, foil, or frustrate “the works of the devil.” He came with no half-way measures — “The Son of God was manifested, that He might **destroy** the works of the devil.” All his works.
    - (1) **Genesis 3:15**  
*And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”*
    - (2) **2 Corinthians 10:4–6**  
*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*
  - c) He did not come to start something He cannot finish
    - (1) **Luke 14:28–30**  
*For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’*

(2) ***Philippians 1:6***

*being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

(3) ***Ephesians 5:25–27***

*... Christ ... loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

Conclusion: I understand that there are elite coaches, just as there are elite athletes, and that it can be difficult to convince such a coach to take an athlete on. One thing the coach will insist on being convinced of: the athlete must be committed to winning.

We cannot be committed to less than Christ has promised us, less than Christ has achieved for us. We must not define ourselves by *our* weakness, but rather by *His* strength. We must not lose heart, but rather be mortifying the flesh through faith in the Son and by the power of His spirit, our inward, new man being renewed day by day. For we are: Children of God.