

Review: Problem of Personal Sin: Lack of Bible Study Causes Spiritual Paralysis; Spirituality & Carnality: the New Spiritual Species & Fellowship, 2 Cor 5:17

20. In the field of romance, the woman makes mistakes because of Operation Overthink. This is what happened to the Shulammite. When the Shepherd complied with her request to depart she became frustrated for fear she had offended him.
21. This led to a cluster of sins: despair, despondency, and desperation which resulted in an unsightly confrontation with the local constabularies.
22. Too often a woman blames the man for the sins that haunt her but she made the decision to commit them and must therefore bear the responsibility to confess them, isolate them, get back in fellowship, and move on.
23. A man made to confront his sinful involvement with a woman will blame her as if he wasn't the one who had the responsibility to control the situation.
24. In every case, the individual must use the problem-solving device of rebound to restore himself to fellowship and resume the spiritual life.

II. Spirituality and Carnality:

1. Following salvation, the major responsibility of the believer is to maintain his spiritual life so that he may both learn and apply the Word of God under the ministries of the Holy Spirit.
2. Failure to live up to this responsibility is caused by personal sin which cuts off fellowship with God, a privilege available to the believer and characterized by communication.
3. Communication with God is accomplished by Him through the revelation of His Word and ours with Him through prayer and application of His principles to life and circumstances.
4. Personal sin also cancels the filling of the Holy Spirit which is the divine power source for spiritual growth. Without the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit the believer is left to his own devices and thus must resort to human viewpoint for problem-solving.
5. From this we are able to deduce that there are two absolute statuses in the life of a believer: (1) spirituality and (2) carnality.
6. A person cannot be spiritual unless he is saved, accomplished by grace through faith alone in Christ alone.
7. At salvation all an individual's presalvation sins are forgiven and he is baptized by the Holy Spirit into union with Christ thus creating a new spiritual species:

1 Corinthians 12:13 - For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature [*καινή κτίσις*, *kainē ktisis*: a new creation, or spiritual species]; the old things [*ἀρχαῖος*, *archaios*: the status quo of unbelief] have passed away; behold, new things [*καινός*, *kainos*: divine power to execute imputed spiritual assets] have come.

8. *Ktisis* is the Koine Greek word for the Hebrew **בָּרָא** *bara'*: *creatio ex nihilo*: creation without reliance on preexisting materials, i.e., “to create from nothing.” Thus the believer in Christ is a new spiritual species.
9. The new believer enters into the Christian life in status quo spirituality in which environment he is privileged to grow in grace under the mentorship of the Holy Spirit.
10. In this status of spirituality the believer has fellowship with each Member of the Trinity. Fellowship with the Father is personal love for God, fellowship with the Holy Spirit is being filled by the Holy Spirit, and fellowship with the Lord is occupation with Christ.
11. We are also informed by Scripture that believers have a second status that is defined as “carnal.” Paul accuses the believers at Corinth of occupying this status in 1 Corinthians 3:1-2.