

DOCTRINE OF FRAGMENTATION

A. Spiritual Death and the Old Sin Nature.

1. At the moment of physical birth, human life is imputed to the soul, and Adam's original sin is imputed to the genetically-formed old sin nature. Therefore, all members of the human race are born physically alive but spiritually dead.
2. Spiritual death means:
 - a. We are totally separated from God.
 - b. We are in a state of total depravity.
 - c. We are totally helpless to do anything about our depravity or our separation from God.
 - d. We are born dichotomous, having only a body and soul but no human spirit with which to understand spiritual phenomena.
3. Consequently, the old sin nature becomes the villain in our lives.
4. The old sin nature has various characteristics, often overlapping.
 - a. An area of strength where we are not prone to temptation or sin, but which can become the basis for self-righteous arrogance.
 - b. An area of weakness in which we have a proclivity toward immoral sins.
 - c. A lust pattern.
 - d. Trends toward self-righteous legalism or lascivious lawlessness, both of which fragment the life.
5. The area of strength produces human good and dead works. The area of weakness produces sins and evil.
6. All the sins we commit follow one of two trends and result in two categories of degeneracy.
 - a. Sins from the self-righteous and legalistic trend result in moral degeneracy.
 - b. Sins from the lascivious and lawless trend result in immoral degeneracy.
7. Therefore, believers out of fellowship fall into two antithetical categories, and these opposite trends polarize in their fragmentation.

B. The Grenade Analogy.

1. Since the believer continues to possess the old sin nature after salvation, he is a walking grenade with the potential to fragment.

2. The pin of the grenade is the first gate of the arrogance complex. You fragment your life by pulling the pin and thereby entering the cosmic system. Fragments of the grenade are gates two through twelve of cosmic one, as well as the various stages of reversionism.
3. However, only the volition of the believer can pull the pin of the grenade. Being tempted by the sin nature is not sin; only when volition pulls the pin of the grenade does the believer sin. That is why the rebound technique (1 John 1:9) is the basic problem-solving device, designed to recover from fragmentation.
4. Once a believer uses his volition to pull the pin of the grenade, he has fraged his own life. The believer who frags his life becomes vulnerable to the major problems that beset believers; i.e., distraction, fear and other emotional disorders, rejection, death or dying, timing (synchronizing with God's plan), promises versus integrity, plus the functional problems, such as wrong priorities and solutions, and failure to execute God's plan and utilize His power.
5. The pin of the grenade is always related to some form of arrogance. The multifarious manifestations of arrogance include jealousy, bitterness, hatred, vindictiveness, implacability, self-pity, self-righteous arrogance, self-centeredness, motivational and functional revenge, slander, maligning, gossip, judging, inordinate ambition, and inordinate competition.
6. The self-fragmentation of the life begins to polarize in the direction of the trends of the sin nature.
 - a. If the trend is toward self-righteous arrogance and legalism, the fragments of the life include being critical and judgmental, committing sins such as slander, gossip, maligning, judging, and Christian activism.
 - b. If the trend is toward lasciviousness or lawlessness, the fragments are sexual, chemical, and even criminal sins.
7. The trend toward self-righteousness and legalism produces such heresies as saying that you cannot commit certain sins and still be a Christian. To the contrary, the believer can commit any sin an unbeliever commits. This trend results in several categories of heretical conclusions.
 - a. Salvation by works.
 - b. Spirituality by works.
 - c. A misunderstanding of our Lord's teaching that "by their fruits you shall know conclude that you are them." From a misinterpretation of this verse, self-righteous Christians conclude that you are not really a Christian unless you show the proper manifestation of it.



8. The trend toward lasciviousness and lawlessness results in anti-nominalism and reaction against Bible doctrine because it is associated with the self-righteous arrogance of the legalist.
9. Either trend, if unchecked, can result in Christian degeneracy: legalism leads to moral degeneracy; antinomianism, to immoral degeneracy. (Degeneracy is used as a synonym for apostasy because its definition is an excellent explanation of apostasy).
10. The pattern of degeneracy is threefold.
 - a. Implosion: the believer is protected by an “integrity envelope,” often termed the “divine dynasphere.” When volition says yes to temptation from the old sin nature, the integrity envelope suffers an inward implosion and bursts; you fragment yourself.
 - b. Explosion: failure to check implosion allows the fragments to explode outwardly and polarize into one of the two trends we have noted.
 - c. Reversion: again, if unchecked, the fragments continue into the stages of reversionism in either trend, and the believer moves into degeneracy.
11. Christian degeneracy is defined as:
 - a. Loss of integrity from passing from the higher to the lower, resulting in a state of spiritual deterioration.
 - b. A progressive decline from the superior standards of the protocol plan of God to the false and inferior standards of fragmentation and reversionism.
 - (1) The two false standards are legalism, based on the sin nature’s trend toward self-righteous arrogance, and antinomianism, based on the trend toward lasciviousness or lawlessness.
 - (2) Degeneracy explains why Christians are psychotic and neurotic, why they commit suicide, mental attitude sins, sins of the tongue, fornicate, become criminals, they commit suicide, mental attitude sins, sins of the tongue, fornicate, become criminals, engage in civil disobedience, enter into drug abuse and other sinful and abnormal activities, and distort friendships, romance, and marriage.

(End JAS4-68.Rev. See JAS4-69.Rev. for continuation of study at p. 681.)



C. Scripture warns against pulling the pin of the grenade.

Proverbs 11:2 When arrogance comes, then comes dishonor; but with the humble is wisdom. (NASB)

Proverbs 16:18 Arrogance precedes destruction, and before a fall there is a lifestyle of arrogance [**psychological living**]. (EXT)

Proverbs 29:23 A person's arrogance will bring him low, but a lifestyle of humility will attain honor." (EXT)

The real issue is not your ability, but your lifestyle of humility. Humility is teachability. One phrase of Psalm 59:12b describes the fragmented life: "... let them be caught in their arrogance."

James 4:6 God gives greater grace. This is why the Scripture says in Proverbs 3:34, "God makes war against the arrogant [**believer**], but He gives grace to the humble [**believer**]." (EXT)

God makes war on any arrogant believers who are in Satan's army, the devil's disciples.

1 Peter 5:5 In the same way, comparative novices, be under the authority of the pastors. All of you in the congregation, fasten yourselves to each other with humility [**grace thinking**], because GOD MAKES WAR AGAINST THE ARROGANT, BUT HE GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.'

v. 6 Therefore, humble yourselves [**become grace oriented**] under the powerful hand of God, that He may promote you at the proper time." (EXT)

- a. You humble yourself under the powerful hand of God by using the problem-solving devices. The one in view here is grace orientation.
- b. If God does not promote you, you are not promoted. You can be successful and yet have a fragmented life. The only way you can be promoted within the limitations of your capacity is when God promotes you.
- c. God promotes prepared people.
- d. God promotes the humble or the grace-oriented individual.
- e. God provides hearers for prepared pastors.

