

Who Are You Feeding?

Every day we face choices.

Ephesians 4:22-29 [NIV] *“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”*

Whatever we read, watch or listen to feeds either our old pre-Christian nature, which was corrupted by its deceitful desires or our new nature that is being created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

In all our activities we must ask ourselves which nature we are feeding.

Matthew 6:24 [NIV] *“No-one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”*

We fool ourselves to think we can keep a foot in the camp of our former way of life, for it will drag us down.

Yet overcoming our deceitful desires and growing in grace and knowledge of God’s way of life sometimes seems a tremendous battle.

Romans 7:15-19 [NIV] *“I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do, this I keep on doing.”*

A very good description of the Christian life that we can all relate to.

We know what is right, we make an attempt to do it, but we fail.

When we find ourselves in this situation we need to follow Paul’s advice.

Romans 7:24-25 [NIV] *“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.”*

How does this happen?

We stop feeding our old careful nature and let it die.

2 Peter 3:18 [NIV] *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen.”*

We need to get to know Jesus Christ more intimately, to be able to follow His example.

How is this done?

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the **Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit is joined to our human spirit, Christ is able to live His life in us and all His wonderful characteristics will “*rub off*” on us.

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature** with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

Allow the Holy Spirit to direct our lives.

Certain basic principles will help us yield to the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 [NIV] *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own; you were bought at a price.** Therefore honour God with your body.”*

When we accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as a substitute for our own deserved death we become God’s property, purchased as a slave was in Paul’s day.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“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. 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.”*

We become this “*living sacrifice*” out of pure gratitude of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

John 17:3 [NIV] *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

The Greek word translated “*know*” is a very intimate word, used also to describe the sexual relationship between a husband and wife.

Eternal life will be an intimate spiritual relationship between Christians and God.

1 John 5:11-12 [NIV] *“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”*

We experience eternal life now in this intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

How do we build a human relationship?

By spending time together in conversation.

Our relationship with Jesus Christ matures in the same way, prayer and study of His Words, the two-sided conversation.

Which nature will we be feeding tomorrow?

Our own corrupt nature or the maturing nature of God in us through our intimate relationship with Him?