

Growing Up

- *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Lk. 2:52*
- We all do this.
- It is how we move from infancy to becoming adults.
- We all take a different path, but in the end we arrive.
- Breaking this down is important
 - 1. Imitation – Our parents, friends, teachers
 - 2. Study –Subjects in school, church, sports, hobbies
 - 3. Entertainment – books we read, TV, Movies, Games
 - 4. Natural abilities forged our path of least resistance
- Who we are today is based on these and other factors.
- God designed our bodies and mind to learn and perfectly maintain the skills we learned in our youth. They now reside in our subconscious. They come as we need them.

Skilled Through Practice

- Talking, reading, writing and math are skills we master in our youth.
- We no longer think about how, we just do it without thinking.
- Buttoning our shirt, tying our shoes,
- Sports, typing, driving, riding a bicycle.
- We learned, we mastered,
- We maintain and retain all the skills we learned, stored in our subconscious, ready to draw from.
- *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. Ps 139:14*

Our Favorites

- Favorite foods vary from person to person.
- As we grow up, certain smells and tastes bring pleasure or lead us to dislike and even disgust.
- As we learn our favorites, we are drawn to them.
- When we see a shop with our favorites we want to go there.
- The same thing happens with entertainment, work, subjects in school. Some we like some we dislike.
- Why am I reminding us of these things?
- What will I be preaching today?

Flesh and Spirit

- *I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. Rom 7:9*
- Sin follows the same path as all our other skills.
- Sin follows the same path as all our other likes/dislikes.
- Once we commit a sin it too enters our subconscious.
- As we commit each sin, it is as foreign and uncomfortable as riding a bike or driving for the first time.
- What is a blessing in every other realm now is a curse.
- Each sin we practice soon becomes perfect and each time we do it we hone our skills and become better at it.
- At that point we lose control. It becomes a part of us that comes out every time we have opportunity.
- It works just like our favorite food or activity.
- It becomes a natural part of us. It is always there.

Can't Teach an old Dog New Tricks

- Even animals master activities and become skilled
- *For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, & but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. Jas. 3:7-10*
- Problem is that as they become older, these now “old tricks,” can't be removed.
- Some older animals must be destroyed because their skills are dangerous, and can't be removed.

We Are the Same

- *For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am fleshly, sold under sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. Rom. 7:14-15*
- This is what happens when our sins enter our subconscious. They come out when we don't will it.
- Once fixed, these become a great curse to the Christian
- *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. Rom, 7:16-19*
- Sin follows the same path as all other skills.

As Knowledge Grows...

- As a Christian, we learn of our failures and sins.
- We now hate them, but they are still there.
- *If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*
- *For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. Rom 7:19-20*
- It is no longer I that do it, because it is a natural part of me that comes our unbidden and unwilled from the past
- Problem is, willed or not, whether I do it or sin that dwells in me that does it:
- *For the wages of sin is death, Rom 6:23*

Locked into a Body where Sin Dwells

- *I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 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.*
- *O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God — through Jesus Christ our Lord! Rom 7:21-24*
- *So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. Rom 7:25*

Battle Will Rage While in the Body

- *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*
- Day by day we make choices.
- The flesh pulling in one direction
- The spirit in a different direction.
- The one hating the other and seeking dominion.
- *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Rom. 8:5-8*

The Holy Spirit's Guidance

- *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 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. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Gal 5:16-18*
- The battle rages within.
- Flesh and spirit battling for control.
- Then Holy Spirit, guiding us through the Word of God is our greatest ally in this battle. Rom. 8:9-11

The Spirit will Give the Victory

- *And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Rom 8:10-11*
- *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors — not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. Rom 8:12-15*
- We spend the rest of our lives in this battle.

Understanding Brings Wisdom

- *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Rom 6:12-14*
- *What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? Rom 6:15-17*

The Gospel Changed Everything

- *But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. Rom 6:17-19*
- The blood of Jesus gives me the opportunity to continue with the struggle until we leave the body