

## Romans 6:1-6 (Part 1)

### *The Eradication of the Old Self*

Man consists of three parts: “*spirit...soul, and body*” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The soul consists of three parts: mind, emotions, and will. We will study the soul in more detail later. Review Circle Diagram 1 located in the Reference Section.

Circle Diagrams 2 and 3 portray visually what occurred in Adam when Adam sinned. Adam’s sin resulted in spiritual death (spiritual separation from God) and, thus, a change of nature. This nature is referred to in the Scriptures (depending on the version) and by Christians in several ways: Adamic nature, dead spirit, old self, sin nature, sinful nature, and old man. Subsequent to Adam’s sin, his acts of sin were natural. Because we are descendants of Adam, we are born in this same condition— “*dead*” to God (Ephesians 2:1), or separated from God, as well as possessors of a nature that enjoys sin.

Not only did Adam’s spirit die (being separated from God, who “*is Spirit*”—John 4:24), but also the power of sin (Satan’s messenger, representative, or agent) moved into Adam’s spirit, soul, and body (note Circle Diagram 2). Adam’s mind, being part of his soul, was then inundated with lies from this power.

However, the news is not all bad. Man can be freed from the Adamic nature and united with the life of God through Christ. Circle Diagram 4 shows that when we exercised repentance and faith while depraved, God “*crucified*” (Romans 6:6) “*our old self*” (Romans 6:6), who we used to be, and created the new self (2Corinthians 5:17), who we are now. This transformation resulted from Jesus taking up residence in our spirit (Colossians 1:27 and Colossians 3:4), along with the Holy Spirit (John 3:5-6; Romans 8:16), which allowed us to be made alive to God. All of these changes took place at the point of justification (salvation).

God did not clean up our “*old self*”; He “*crucified*” it (Romans 6:6), eradicated it, did away with it forever. He then created the new self (the new man), which is a holy and perfect being, totally accepted in His eyes. For a review of information regarding the new self (the new man) refer to the notes on Romans 5:1. Statements regarding justification apply to the spirit and soul of the New Testament believer. Your spirit and soul define who you are. Thus, the new man is both soul and spirit (Circle Diagrams 4 and 9).

Hebrews 10:14 is one of the most profound statements included in the Scriptures:

*because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.* (Hebrews 10:14 NIV)

Paul’s message in Romans 6 is invaluable. God makes our spirit and soul “*perfect*” at the point of justification, even though our behavior is “*being made holy*” on an ongoing basis. What we do is not who we are, even though who we are has a tremendous impact on what we do.

We must grasp the change that took place when our “*old self*” (Adamic nature) was eradicated and our new man (new self) was created. The following example, ridiculous as it may seem, has served as a wonderful tool through which to communicate this life changing truth.

If you took a hog (pig), removed its nature and replaced it with the nature of a cat, the resulting creature would use a litter pan. It would have the physical appearance of a hog, but would possess the nature of a cat. So, what would you call the resulting creature? Would you call it a hog or a cat? You would call it a cat, because the nature of a creature, not the way it looks on the outside, makes it what it is. If the resulting creature, the cat, fell into a mud hole, it would lick itself clean because it would hate mud! Cats hate mud; hogs love mud. The same is true of New Testament believers. God, first of all, removed our old nature (*“old self,”* sinful nature, Adamic nature), because our old nature was who we used to be. He then replaced it with our new nature (the new man, or new self), who we are now. We hate sin, but will, on occasion, commit acts of sin. However, when we do so, we *“...grieve the Holy Spirit of God...”* (Ephesians 4:30), which results in a desire to confess and repent. The bottom line is that we are no longer capable of enjoying sin.

Some people view the old self (Adamic nature) as wounded, yet alive, in the New Testament believer. In fact, they view the old self (Adamic nature) as eradicated not when we believe, but when we experience physical death. Within theological circles this mindset is known as Positional Truth, a subject addressed briefly in the lesson associated with Romans 5:1. Positional Truth is contradictory as the following example illustrates.

Should the old self (Adamic nature) dwell in us, we would possess two natures, making us part evil and part righteous—the old self being evil, the new self being righteous. Thus, we would be both cat and hog, a “cahog.” Being part evil and part righteous would present an impossible situation for the New Testament believer. Should we sin (fall in a mud hole), the hog would be in bliss while the cat would be overcome with grief. On the other hand, should we walk in righteousness (avoid the mud hole), the cat would be in bliss while the hog would be totally demoralized. If we, as New Testament believers, possessed two natures, we could never experience God’s peace. Either the cat or the hog would be out of sorts no matter what choice was made, leaving our souls in a state of constant disarray! Either the *“old self”* (Romans 6:6) was eradicated when we were born again or we have no hope of living in God’s *“rest”* (Hebrews 4:9) and *“peace”* (Galatians 5:22).