

A NEW HEART

THE NATURE OF MAN

WHAT A MAN IS

“No work ever undertaken by man requires greater care and skill than the proper training and education of youth and children. There are no influences so potent as those which surround us in our early years. Says the wise man, ‘Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.’ **The nature of man is three-fold**, and the training enjoined by Solomon comprehends the right development of the **physical, intellectual, and moral powers**. To perform this work aright, parents and teachers must themselves understand ‘the way the child should go.’ This embraces more than a knowledge of books or the learning of the schools. It comprehends the practice of temperance, brotherly-kindness, and godliness; the discharge of our duty to ourselves, to our neighbors and to God.” *Review & Herald*, January 10, 1882.

THE MAN IN THE HOUSE

“There is not one in a thousand married or unmarried, who realize the importance of purity of habits, in preserving cleanliness of **the body** and purity of thought. Sickness and disease is the sure consequence of disobedience to nature's laws, and neglect of the laws of life and health. **It is the house in which we live** that we need to preserve, that it may do honor to God who has redeemed us. We need to know how to preserve **the living machinery**, that our soul, body, and spirit may be consecrated to His service. As rational beings we are deplorably ignorant of the body and its requirements. While the schools we have established have taken up the study of physiology, they have not taken hold of the matter with that decided energy which they should. They have not practiced intelligently that which they have received in knowledge. And they do not realize that unless it is practiced, the body will decay.” *The Kress Collection*, 45.

THE ‘PHYSICAL’ – FLESH – AFFECTIONS – LUSTS – FEELINGS – THOUGHTS

“**The lower passions** have their seat **in the body** and **work through it**. The words ‘flesh’ or ‘fleshly’ or ‘carnal lusts’ embrace **the lower, corrupt nature; the flesh of itself cannot act contrary to the will of God**. We are commanded to crucify the flesh, with **the affections and lusts**. How shall we do it? Shall we inflict pain on the body? No; but put to death the temptation to sin. The **corrupt thought** is to be expelled. Every thought is to be brought into captivity to Jesus Christ. All **animal propensities** are to be subjected to the **higher powers of the soul**. The love of God must reign supreme; Christ must occupy an undivided throne. Our bodies are to be regarded as His purchased possession. The members of the body are to become the instruments of righteousness.” *Adventist Home*, 127.

THE COMPONENTS OF THE ‘MAN’

“Again I warn you as one who must meet these lines in that day when the case of everyone shall be decided. Yield yourself to Christ without delay; He alone, by the power of His grace, can redeem you from ruin. He alone can bring your **moral and mental powers** into a state of health. **Your heart** may be warm with the love of God; your **understanding**, clear and mature; your **conscience**, illuminated, quick, and pure; your **will**, upright and sanctified, subject to the control of the Spirit of God. You can make yourself what you **choose**. If you will now face right about, cease to do evil and learn to do well, then you will be happy indeed; you will be successful in the battles of life and rise to glory and honor in the better life than this. **‘Choose you this day whom ye will serve.’**” *Child Guidance*, 454.

HIGHER & LOWER POWERS

“The greatest want of the world is the want of men--men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.

“But such a character is not the result of accident; **it is not due to special favors or endowments of Providence.** A noble character is the **result of self-discipline**, of the subjection of **the lower to the higher nature--the surrender of self** for the service of love to God and man.” *Education*, 57.

“Some will acknowledge the evil of sinful indulgences, yet will excuse themselves by saying that they cannot overcome their passions. This is a terrible admission for any person to make who names Christ. ‘Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.’ Why is this weakness? It is because the **animal propensities** have been strengthened by exercise, until they have **gained the ascendancy over the higher powers.** Men and women lack principle. They are dying spiritually, because they have so long pampered their **natural appetites** that their **power of self-government seems gone.** The lower passions of their nature have **taken the reins**, and that which should **be the governing power has become the servant of corrupt passion.** The soul is held in lowest bondage. Sensuality has quenched the desire for holiness and withered spiritual prosperity.” *Child Guidance*, 446.

THE GOVERNING POWER

“**The will is the governing power in the nature of man**, bringing all the other faculties under its sway. **The will is not the taste or the inclination**, but it is the deciding power which works in the children of men unto obedience to God or unto disobedience.” *Mind, Character, & Personality*, volume 2, 685.

COOPERATION

“God calls upon all who will to come and drink of the waters of life freely. The power of God is the one element of efficiency in the grand work of obtaining the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. It is in accordance with the divine plan that we follow every ray of light given of God. Man can accomplish nothing without God, and God has arranged His plans so as to accomplish nothing in the restoration of the human race **without the cooperation of the human with the divine.** **The part man is required to sustain is immeasurably small**, yet in the plan of God it is just **that part that is needed to make the work a success.**” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 10, 306.

WHAT YOU CAN CONTROL

“**You cannot control your impulses, your emotions**, as you may desire, **but you can control the will**, and you can **make an entire change in your life.** By yielding up your will to Christ, your life will be hid with Christ in God, and allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from God that will hold you fast to His strength; and a new light, even the light of living faith, will be possible to you. But **your will must co-operate with God's will**, not with the will of associates through whom Satan is constantly working to ensnare and destroy you.” *Messages to Young People*, 152.

THE SPRING OF ALL YOUR ACTIONS

“Talk faith. **Keep on God's side of the line. Set not your foot on the enemy's side, and the Lord will be your Helper.** He will do for you that which it is not possible for you to do for yourself. The result will be that you will become like a ‘cedar of Lebanon.’ Your life will be noble, and your works will be wrought in God. There will be in you a power, an earnestness, and a simplicity that will make you a polished instrument in the hands of God.

“You need to drink daily at the fountain of truth, that you may understand the secret of pleasure and joy in the Lord. But you must remember that **your will is the spring of all your actions.** This will, that forms so important a factor in the character of man, was at the fall given into the control of Satan; and he has ever since been working in man to will and to do of his own pleasure, but to the utter ruin and misery of man.” *Messages to Young People*, 153.

THE ROLE OF THE SPIRIT

“**The Spirit of God does not propose to do our part, either in the willing or the doing.** This is the work of the human agent in cooperating with the divine agencies. As soon as we incline our will to harmonize with God’s will, the **grace of Christ stands to cooperate with the human agent;** but it **will not be the substitute to do our work independent of our resolving and decidedly acting.** Therefore it is not the abundance of light, and evidence piled upon evidence, that will convert the soul it is only the human agent accepting the light, arousing the energies of the will, realizing and acknowledging that which he knows is righteousness and truth, and thus cooperating with the heavenly ministrations appointed to God in the saving of the soul.—Lt 135, 1898.” *Mind, Character, & Personality*, volume 2, 691.

Examples of the Will

Exodus 14:16 – Red Sea

Joshua 3:13 – Jordan River

THE ROLE OF GOD – CHANGING THE HEART

“**None but He who created man can effect a change in the human heart.** Every teacher is to realize that he must be moved by divine agencies. The mind and judgment must be submitted to the Holy Spirit. Through the sanctification of the truth, we may bear a decided testimony for righteousness before both believers and unbelievers.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 12, 127.

Psalms 51:10; Ezekiel 36:22-28

“When Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden, they were innocent and sinless, in perfect harmony with God. Enmity had no natural existence in their hearts. But when they transgressed, **their nature was no longer sinless.** They became evil, for they had placed themselves on the side of the fallen foe, doing the very things that God specified they should not do. Had there been no interference on the part of God, fallen humans would have formed a firm alliance with Satan against heaven. But when the words were spoken, ‘**I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel,**’ Satan knew that although he had succeeded in making human beings sin, although he had led them to believe his lie and to question God, although he had succeeded in depraving human nature, some arrangement had been made whereby the beings who had fallen would be placed on vantage ground, **their nature renewed in godliness.** He

saw that his actions in tempting them would react upon himself, and that he would be placed where he could not become conqueror. . . “Christ *Triumphant*, 28.

TEST OF DISCIPLESHIP

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.’ 2 Corinthians 5:17.

A person may not be able to tell the exact time or place, or trace all the chain of circumstances in the process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted. Christ said to Nicodemus, ‘The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.’ John 3:8. Like the wind, which is invisible, yet the effects of which are plainly seen and felt, is the Spirit of God in its work upon the human heart. That regenerating power, which no human eye can see, begets a new life in the soul; it creates a new being in the image of God. While the work of the Spirit is silent and imperceptible, its effects are manifest. If the heart has been renewed by the Spirit of God, the life will bear witness to the fact. While we cannot do anything to change our hearts or to bring ourselves into harmony with God; while we must not trust at all to ourselves or our good works, our lives will reveal whether the grace of God is dwelling within us. A change will be seen in the character, the habits, the pursuits. The contrast will be clear and decided between what they have been and what they are. The character is revealed, not by occasional good deeds and occasional misdeeds, but by the tendency of the habitual words and acts.

“It is true that there may be an outward correctness of deportment without the renewing power of Christ. The love of influence and the desire for the esteem of others may produce a well-ordered life. Self-respect may lead us to avoid the appearance of evil. A selfish heart may perform generous actions. By what means, then, shall we determine whose side we are on?

“Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are Christ's, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. All we have and are is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things.

“Those who become new creatures in Christ Jesus will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, ‘love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.’ Galatians 5:22, 23. They will no longer fashion themselves according to the former lusts, but by the faith of the Son of God they will follow in His steps, reflect His character, and purify themselves even as He is pure. The things they once hated they now love, and the things they once loved they hate. The proud and self-assertive become meek and lowly in heart. The vain and supercilious become serious and unobtrusive. The drunken become sober, and the profligate pure. The vain customs and fashions of the world are laid aside. Christians will seek not the ‘outward adorning,’ but ‘the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit.’ 1 Peter 3:3, 4.

“There is no evidence of genuine repentance unless it works reformation. If he restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, confess his sins, and love God and his fellow men, the sinner may be sure that he has passed from death unto life.

“When, as erring, sinful beings, we come to Christ and become partakers of His pardoning grace, love springs up in the heart. Every burden is light, for the yoke that Christ imposes is easy. Duty becomes a delight, and sacrifice a pleasure. The path that before seemed shrouded in darkness, becomes bright with beams from the Sun of Righteousness.

“The loveliness of the character of Christ will be seen in His followers. It was His delight to do the will of God. Love to God, zeal for His glory, was the controlling power in our Saviour's life. Love beautified

and ennobled all His actions. Love is of God. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate or produce it. It is found only in the heart where Jesus reigns. 'We love, because He first loved us.' 1 John 4:19, R.V. In the heart renewed by divine grace, **love is the principle of action**. It modifies the character, **governs the impulses, controls the passions, subdues enmity, and ennobles the affections**. This love, cherished in the soul, sweetens the life and sheds a refining influence on all around.

"But notice here that obedience is not a mere outward compliance, but the **service of love**. The law of God is an expression of His very nature; it is an embodiment of the great principle of love, and hence is the foundation of His government in heaven and earth. If our hearts are renewed in the likeness of God, if the divine love is implanted in the soul, will not the law of God be carried out in the life? When the principle of love is implanted in the heart, when man is renewed after the image of Him that created him, the new-covenant promise is fulfilled, 'I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.' Hebrews 10:16. And if the law is written in the heart, will it not shape the life? **Obedience--the service and allegiance of love--is the true sign of discipleship**. Thus the Scripture says, 'This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.' 'He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.' 1 John 5:3; 2:4. Instead of releasing man from obedience, it is faith, and faith only, that makes us partakers of the grace of Christ, which enables us to render obedience." *Steps to Christ*, 57-60.

THE UNRENEWED HEART

"Christians should be the most cheerful and happy people that live. They may have the consciousness that God is their father and their everlasting friend.

"But many professed Christians do not correctly represent the Christian religion. **They appear gloomy, as if under a cloud**. They often speak **of the great sacrifices they have made to become Christians**. They appeal to those who have not accepted Christ, representing by their own example and conversation that **they must give up everything which would make life pleasant and joyful**. They throw **a pall of darkness over the blessed Christian hope**. The impression is given that **God's requirements are a burden even to the willing soul**, and that everything that would give pleasure, or that would delight the taste, **must be sacrificed**.

"We do not hesitate to say that this class of professed Christians have not the genuine article. **God is love. Whoso dwelleth in God, dwelleth in love**. All who have indeed become acquainted, by experimental knowledge, with the love and tender compassion of our Heavenly Father will impart light and joy wherever they may be. Their presence and influence will be to their associates as the fragrance of sweet flowers, because they are linked to God and heaven, and the purity and exalted loveliness of heaven are communicated through them to all that are brought within their influence. This constitutes them the light of the world, the salt of the earth. They are indeed saviors of life unto life, but not of death unto death." *Messages to Young People*, 363.

ARE LOWER PASSIONS SIN? IS SIN A CONDITION OR CHOICE?

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for **sin is the transgression of the law.** 1 John 3:4

“Our only definition of sin is that given in the word of God; it is ‘the transgression of the law.’” *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 4, 316.

“The lower passions have their seat in the body and work through it. The words ‘flesh’ or ‘fleshly’ or ‘carnal lusts’ embrace the lower, corrupt nature; **the flesh of itself cannot act contrary to the will of God.** We are commanded to crucify the flesh, with the affections and lusts. How shall we do it? Shall we inflict pain on the body? No; but put to death the temptation to sin. The corrupt thought is to be expelled. Every thought is to be brought into captivity to Jesus Christ. All animal propensities are to be subjected to the higher powers of the soul. The love of God must reign supreme; Christ must occupy an undivided throne. Our bodies are to be regarded as His purchased possession. The members of the body are to become the instruments of righteousness.” *Adventist Home*, 127.

“We should preserve the strictest chastity in thought and word and deportment. Let us remember that God sets our secret sins in the light of His countenance. **There are thoughts and feelings suggested and aroused by Satan that annoy even the best of men; but if they are not cherished, if they are repulsed as hateful, the soul is not contaminated with guilt,** and no other is defiled by their influence. Oh, that we each might become a savor of life unto life to those around us!” *Mind, Character, & Personality*, volume 2, 432.

Deuteronomy 30:19 – Blessing & Cursing

THE NATURE OF CHRIST

THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST

“Satan had pointed to Adam's sin as proof that God's law was unjust, and could not be obeyed. In our humanity, Christ was to redeem Adam's failure. But when Adam was assailed by the tempter, none of the effects of sin were upon him. He stood in the strength of perfect manhood, possessing the full vigor of mind and body. He was surrounded with the glories of Eden, and was in daily communion with heavenly beings. It was not thus with Jesus when He entered the wilderness to cope with Satan. For four thousand years the race had been decreasing in physical strength, in mental power, and in moral worth; and Christ took upon Him **the infirmities of degenerate humanity.** Only thus could He rescue man from the lowest depths of his degradation.

“Many claim that it was impossible for Christ to be overcome by temptation. Then He could not have been placed in Adam's position; He could not have gained the victory that Adam failed to gain. **If we have in any sense a more trying conflict than had Christ, then He would not be able to succor us.** But our **Saviour took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation. We have nothing to bear which He has not endured.**

THE TEST OF THE LOWER PASSIONS

“With Christ, as with the holy pair in Eden, **appetite was the ground of the first great temptation.** Just where the ruin began, the work of our redemption must begin. As by **the indulgence of appetite** Adam fell, so **by the denial of appetite** Christ must overcome. ‘And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an **hungred.** And when the tempter came to Him, he said, If Thou be the

Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.'

"From the time of Adam to that of Christ, self-indulgence had increased the power of the appetites and passions, until they had almost unlimited control. Thus men had become debased and diseased, and of themselves it was impossible for them to overcome. In man's behalf, Christ conquered by enduring the severest test. For our sake **He exercised a self-control stronger than hunger or death**. And in this first victory were involved other issues that enter into all our conflicts with the powers of darkness.

"When Jesus entered the wilderness, He was shut in by the Father's glory. Absorbed in communion with God, He was lifted above human weakness. But the glory departed, and He was left to battle with temptation. It was pressing upon Him every moment. His **human nature** shrank from the conflict that awaited Him. For forty days He fasted and prayed. Weak and emaciated from hunger, worn and haggard with mental agony, 'His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.' Isaiah 52:14. Now was Satan's opportunity. Now he supposed that he could overcome Christ.

"There came to the Saviour, as if in answer to His prayers, one in the guise of an angel from heaven. He claimed to have a commission from God to declare that Christ's fast was at an end. As God had sent an angel to stay the hand of Abraham from offering Isaac, so, satisfied with Christ's willingness to enter the bloodstained path, the Father had sent an angel to deliver Him; this was the message brought to Jesus. The Saviour was faint from hunger, **He was craving for food**, when Satan came suddenly upon Him. Pointing to the stones which strewed the desert, and which had the appearance of loaves, the tempter said, 'If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.'

"Though he appears as an angel of light, these first words betray his character. 'If Thou be the Son of God.' Here is the insinuation of distrust. Should Jesus do what Satan suggests, it would be an **acceptance of the doubt**. The tempter plans to **overthrow Christ by the same means that were so successful with the human race in the beginning**. How artfully had Satan approached Eve in Eden! 'Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?' Genesis 3:1. Thus far the tempter's words were truth; but in his manner of speaking them there was a disguised contempt for the words of God. There was a covert negative, a doubt of the divine truthfulness. Satan sought to instill into the mind of Eve the thought that God would not do as He had said; that the withholding of such beautiful fruit was a contradiction of His love and compassion for man. So now the tempter seeks to inspire Christ with his own sentiments. 'If Thou be the Son of God.' The words rankle with bitterness in his mind. In the tones of his voice is an expression of utter incredulity. Would God treat His own Son thus? Would He leave Him in the desert with wild beasts, without food, without companions, without comfort? He insinuates that God never meant His Son to be in such a state as this. 'If Thou be the Son of God,' show Thy power by relieving Thyself of this pressing hunger. Command that this stone be made bread.

"The words from heaven, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased' (Matthew 3:17), were still sounding in the ears of Satan. But he was determined to make Christ **disbelieve this testimony**. The word of God was Christ's assurance of His divine mission. He had come to live as a man among men, and it was the word that declared His connection with heaven. It was Satan's purpose to cause Him to doubt that word. **If Christ's confidence in God could be shaken**, Satan knew that the victory in the whole controversy would be his. He could overcome Jesus. He hoped that under the force of despondency and extreme hunger, Christ would lose faith in His Father, and work a miracle in His own behalf. Had He done this, the plan of salvation would have been broken." *The Desire of Ages*, 117-119.

“The church of Christ is to represent his character. Its members, if their names are written in the Lamb's book of life, will be united by a vital connection with Christ, as the branch is united with the living vine. Jesus says, "For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." Christ devoted himself entirely to the work of saving souls. He left the glories of heaven, and clothed his divinity with humanity, and subjected himself to sorrow, and shame, and reproach, abuse, denial, and crucifixion. **Though he had all the strength of the passion of humanity, never did he yield to temptation to do that which was not pure and elevating and ennobling.** He says. "I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified." He devoted himself wholly to God in an infinite sacrifice to redeem the world. What a wholeness in his life, his character! The plan of salvation, devised prior to the beginning of time, expresses the love of Christ to man, the devotion of the Son to the Father's glory. "To the intent that now the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." This eternal purpose embodied before the universe the glory of the divine love in the salvation of man." *Signs of the Times*, November 21, 1892.

“Christian mothers should realize that they are coworkers with God when training and disciplining their children in such a manner as will enable them to reflect the character of Christ. In this work they will have the cooperation of heavenly angels; but it is a work that is sadly neglected, and for this reason Christ is robbed of his heritage,—the younger members of his family. But through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, humanity may be a coworker with divinity. The lessons of Christ upon the occasion of receiving the children, should leave a deeper impression upon our minds. The words of Christ encourage parents to bring their little ones to Jesus. **They may be wayward, and possess passions like those of humanity,** but this should not deter us from bringing them to Christ. **He blessed children that were possessed of passions like his own.** We often err in training our children. Parents often indulge their children in that which is selfish and demoralizing, and instead of having travail of soul for their salvation, they let them drift along, and grow up with perverse tempers and unlovely characters.” *Signs of the Times*, April 9, 1896.

“Adam was tempted by the enemy, and he fell. It was not indwelling sin which caused him to yield; for God made him pure and upright, in His own image. He was as faultless as the angels before the throne. There were in him no corrupt principles, no tendencies to evil. But when Christ came to meet the temptations of Satan, He bore ‘the likeness of sinful flesh.’ In the wilderness, weakened physically by a fast of forty days, He met His adversary. His dignity was questioned, His authority disputed, His allegiance to His Father assailed by the fallen foe.” *Signs of the Times*, October 17, 1900.

“When Jesus took human nature, and became in fashion as a man, He possessed all the human organism. **His necessities were the necessities of a man. He had bodily wants to be supplied, bodily weariness to be relieved.** By prayer to the Father He was braced for duty and for trial (Letter 32, 1899).” *S.D.A Bible Commentary*, volume 5, 1130.

“**Christ did not make-believe take human nature; He did verily take it. He did in reality possess human nature.** "As the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same." He was the Son of Mary; He was of the seed of David according to human descent. He is declared to be a man, even the man Christ Jesus. "This man," writes Paul, "was counted worthy of more glory

than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honor than the house." *S.D.A Bible Commentary*, volume 5, 1130.