

Charlie Brown Discovers the Adamic Nature Problem and God's Provision for Victory, Gal. 5:17

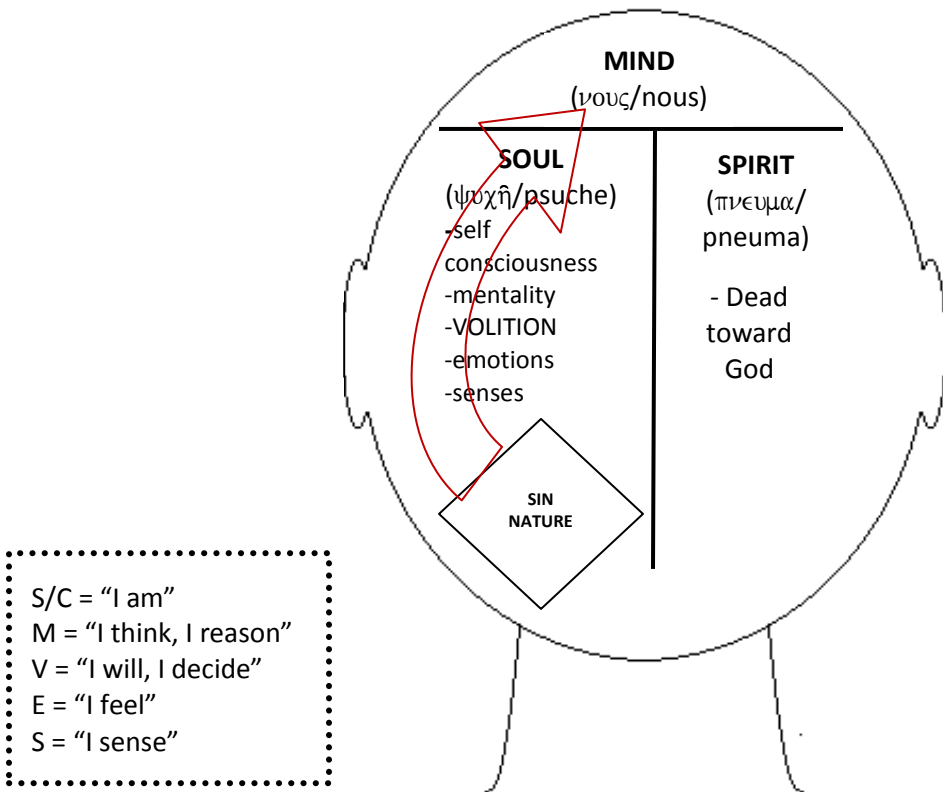
Origin: The Adamic Nature

Gen. 2:16-17	God said...	Emphatic, "In the day you eat thereof, dying, thou shalt surely die."
Gen. 3:1	Satan said...	"Has God said???"
Gen 3:3	The woman said...	"We are not even allowed to touch it lest we die."
Gen 3:4	Satan said...	"You shall not surely die."

Net Result: Mankind outside the Garden

- Consciousness of good and evil (innate)
- Consciousness of rebellion against God (sin)
- Consciousness of guilt before God
- Consciousness of consequences (they hide from God)
- Consciousness of death???

of fallen mankind!



Volitional Challenges in the Believer: The Internal Conflict

I. Gal. 5:17 The Passion War = Conflict between the flesh and the Spirit

A. 5:17a The _____ for walking by the Spirit: the flesh always opposes the Spirit

... for the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh...

The verb *lusts* = ἐπιθυμέω / epithumeo = “to be passionately set”

➤ Present Tense = _____ action = “keeps on being passionately set”

➤ *the flesh* (human nature animated by sin) \longleftrightarrow *the Spirit*

B. 5:17b Rational absolute of this passion war

.... for these are contrary [absolutely set against] *one another...*

Point: the desires of *the flesh* and *the Spirit* CANNOT be reconciled: they are forever diametrically opposed!

Romans 8:7 *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*

C. 5:17c A key result of the passion war

... so that you [believers] *cannot do the things that you wish/will** [as though this conflict did not exist]

*θελετε / thelete = Present T., Active V., Subjunctive M. from θέλω

The Passion War is a Mind War

(See diagram on Page 16)

II. Gal. 5:16 Spiritual Victory in the Passion War

A. 5:16a The Command

... I say then, walk in the Spirit [keep walking in/by the Spirit]

- *walk* = forward progress, lifestyle-suitcase term (49 times in N.T.)
- *in/by the Spirit* = instrumental or locative case (no preposition in Greek texts)

= forward _____ for the Christian is by means of the Spirit

B. 5:16b The Effect of the Command

..... *and you shall not* fulfill the lusts of the flesh...*

*_____ negation = οὐ μὴ / ou me (double negative)

EVERY GREEK WOULD IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZE THIS EMPHATIC NEGATION!!

Principles & Applications

1. The lust patterns of the flesh are always _____, always seeking expression in the believer's mind.
2. The antipathy between the flesh (sin nature) and God's Spirit is forever fixed, the warfare perpetual in the believer's mind.
3. Therefore, when making volitional choices in life, a believer must always ask, "What is motivating this choice, *flesh* or *Spirit*?"
4. The believer need not be controlled by the flesh (as per Romans 6-7). The unbeliever has no such choice; his/her fleshly lusts, though possibly suppressed in one area, will find expression or completion in another.
5. Lust patterns of the flesh include:
 - ego lust
 - power lust
 - approbation lust
 - sexual lust
 - material lust
 - pleasure lust (hedonism)
 - self-preservation lust
6. In the Galatians 5 context, note the repeated admonition to *walk in/by the Spirit* that begins (5:16) and ends (5:25) the paragraph.
7. Finally: there is no idea in the context of pitting one's will against the _____; such is futile. The only hope for man in the war against sin is the salvation provided by Christ's sacrifice and the life of the Spirit provided for human experience.

The Passion War is a Mind War, Gal. 5:17

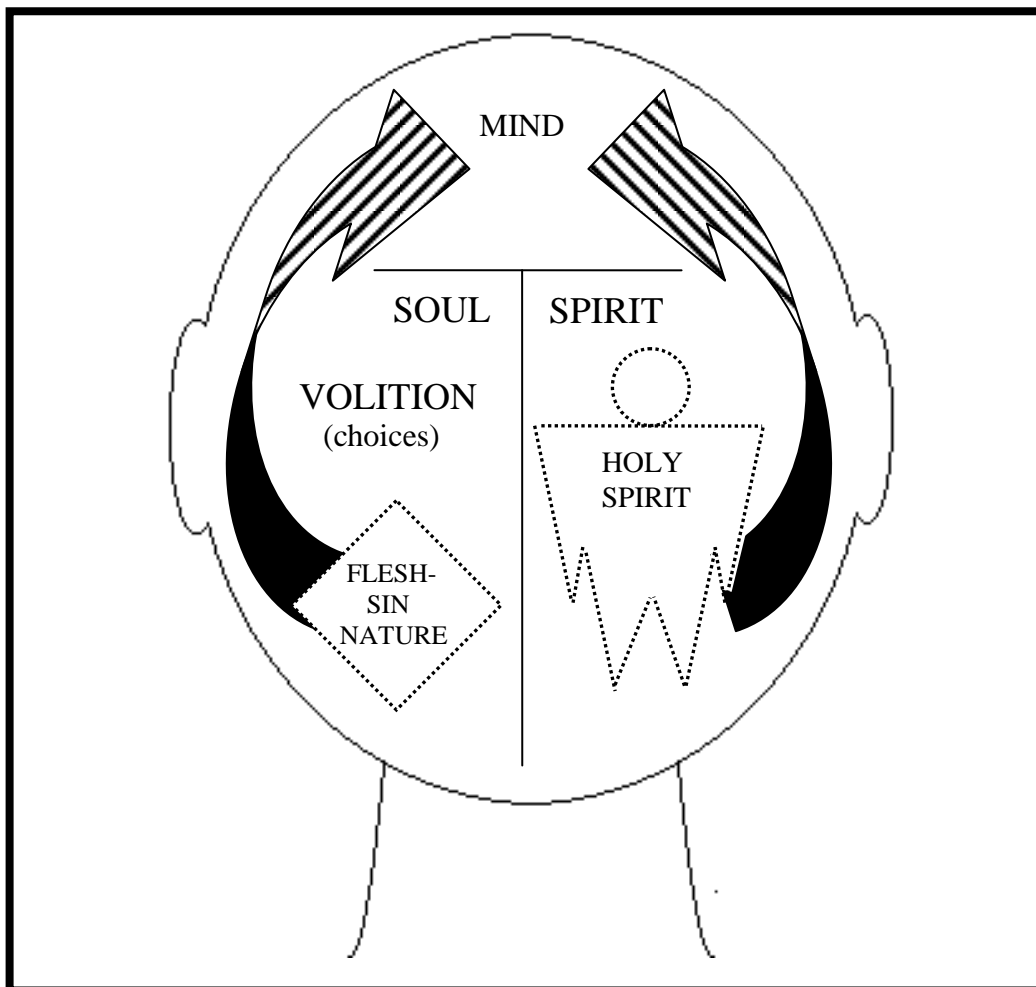


Illustration: A believer may desire to be the world's greatest golfer. At issue, since he belongs to God by redemption, is the will of God (the mind of the Spirit) in the matter and the problem of the flesh. **JUST WHAT IS PROMPTING THE DESIRE, FLESH OR SPIRIT?** By maintaining right relationship with God's Spirit, the believer can rest in His leadership and make decisions compatible with God's (the Spirit's) desires.