

Sunday, November 27, 2011

The Old and the New

Some wonder: If Christ, through His cross, defeated sin and broke its bondage, then why do we still sin? And if we have been baptized and became children of God, then why are we weak and fall into sins every day? The answer can be summarized in the following few lines:

Christ our God came into the world to redeem us and renew our nature which became corrupted because of sin, so He died on the cross and carried the sins of the whole world and redeemed us.



We take our portion of the redemption of Christ through faith and baptism. We are buried with Him and resurrected with Him taking a new nature, one that is pure and powerful through the work of the Holy Spirit within us, so the devil has no authority over us.

Nonetheless, this does not mean that we will never sin. We are still in the flesh and prone to err and subject to death. We have not yet taken the spiritual bodies, the bodies of the resurrection which are not subject to death.

However, in baptism and through the support of the Holy Spirit, we have taken a new power which enables us to tread on serpents and scorpions and every power of the enemy; Thus, nothing would have authority over us.

All what the devil does, is that he presents sin to us, as he did with our Lord Jesus during the temptation on the mountain. If we bite the bait and accept his advice and evil counsel that he presents to us, he catches us in his evil traps and the slavery of sin. But if we reject his wicked counsel, we remain in the glorious freedom of God's children.

In baptism, we have taken the new man, born of God, who does not sin; we ought to nurture this new man [nature] within us with continuous spiritual nourishment till he matures. Furthermore, we still carry the old man within us and we ought to crucify his evil tendencies and put off his evil deeds. But if we leave him working within us, he will lead us to sin for the devil troubles us through him.

Here, we come to the realization that when we sin, it is the old man that sins because the new man who is born of God within us through baptism does not sin, *"Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God."* (1 John 3: 9). And he is also able to control the old man if we live in spirit and give the rudder of our lives to the Spirit of God which is granted to us in the sacraments of Baptism and confirmation.

We also have hope in that even if we weaken and fall into sin, but confessed our sins, then God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all iniquity (1 John 1: 9), through the power of forgiveness that springs from His blood that is shed at the cross and through which He offered us eternal redemption.



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