

DOCTRINE OF THE OLD SIN NATURE

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Every human being, at birth, receives a natural sinful nature. This nature, according to I Corinthians 2:14, is called natural, and receives not the things of God. They are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because he is spiritually discerned. Through the new birth, one receives a new divine nature, which in turn gives him the ability to understand the Word and obey it.

In that the believer still retains his first nature, it is then referred to as "an old sin nature", which is the source of all of the believer's problems.

TITLES FOR THE OLD SIN NATURE

Natural Man	I Cor. 2:14	The Heart	Jer. 17:9
Carnal Man	I Cor. 3:1-3	The Flesh	Rom. 7:18
The Old Man	Eph. 4:22	The Soulish Man	

This sin nature has been broken down into temperament, character, and personality.

Temperament is the combination of inborn traits that subconsciously affect man's behaviour.

Character is what you think, which is the result of training, education, and beliefs.

Personality is the face that we show to others.

FOUR BASIC TEMPERAMENTS

More than 400 years before Christ, the Greek physician and philosopher, Hippocrates, propounded the theory that there are basically four types of temperaments:

THE SANGUINE:



Warm; Compassionate; Buoyant; Friendly; Lively; Never at a loss for words; Enjoys people; Sings his way through life; Has an optimistic disposition; Forgets past, lives in the present; If he failed yesterday, has new plans for today; Because of his lovable disposition, people have a way of excusing his weaknesses by saying, "That's just the way he is."

WEAKNESSES:



Impractical; Disorganized; Runs off half-cocked in the wrong direction; Usually not a good student; Does not like to study; Undisciplined; Weak-willed; Starts things, but does not finish them; If asked to do something, he says "yes" whether he has time or not; Not dependable; Not loyal; Will forget you as quickly as he loved you; He is occupied with self; Discouraged easily; Fly off the handle; Never gets ulcers--gives them to others; Great problems with lust and temptation; Tendency to think more of immediate temptation than of wife and children at home.

THE COLERIC:

STRONG POINTS: The Choleric temperament has strong will powers, practical, they are leaders, optimistic. A Choleric person is confident in his own ability, very aggressive. His success is usually a result of his determination, rather than ingenious planning. Keen mind for organization, can quickly appraise the situation. As a take-over guy, he tends to dominate a group. He is a good judge of people, he is quick and bold in emergencies. Because of his self confidence he usually is optimistic. He is adventurous, has a pioneering spirit. He believes he can overcome any obstacle and adversity spurs him on.



WEAKNESSES: Hot tempered, cruel, impetuous, self-sufficient. He has a serious emotional deficiency. Compassion is foreign to his nature. He tends to be thick skinned, and unsympathetic towards others, needs or desires. He can become violently angry, after he vents his wrath he carries a grudge and is known to be revengeful. His disposition causes him and those around him much discomfort. He almost delights in running ruffshod over others. Without strong morals, standards, he will not



hesitate to break the law or to resort to craftiness. Many of the worlds most depraved criminals and dictators have been choleric. He oft times launches out impetuously in a direction which is later proven to be wrong. He is so proud and stubborn - he admits no wrong, and stubbornly sees it through. It is difficult for him to show approval and this causes untold heart ache in his marriage. He is an independant self confident, self sufficient individual who looks upon his accomplishments as good deeds, which more then out weigh his bad. He therefore sees no need for God as man. Very hard for a person like this to get saved unless saved at an early age.

THE MELANCHOLY:

STRONG POINTS: Sensitive, perfectionist, analytical, faithful, self sacrificing. He has a sensitive nature. He is genuine prone, does not want to be a hypocrite. he is adapt to creative thinking. He has a perfectionist tendency. High standards of excellence, some times higher then either he or anyone else can obtain.



WEAKNESSES: He is self centered, pessimistic, moody, revengful. He is inclined to self examination to a point where he is paralyzed. Very undully concerned about their physical condition and if saved, their spiritual condition. Everything that touches him is of primary importance because of his self centeredness. He is easily offended or insulted he carries his feelings in his sleeve. Prone to be pessimistic-for the problems involved in success are more real then the good. Past dissapointments guarantee future dissapointments.



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THE PHLEGMATIC:

STRONG POINTS: The phlegmatic is witty, dependable, he is practical and efficient. He keeps from being intensely involved in life. He has a sense of humor, in fact others enjoy his dry sense of humor. His natural qualities enable him to be a good counselor. The phlegmatic person is dependable, and also good natured, and a faithful friend. He is also practical, since he is not emotionally stimulated to make decisions, he can work well under pressure. Because he is efficient and neat; though not a perfectionist like melancholy, his neat desk is an annoyance to others more active.



WEAKNESSES:

The phlegmatic tends to be slow and lazy, he can be a tease, he can be stubborn and indecisive. He appears to be dragging his feet. His lack of motion tends to make him a spectator. The activity of a Sanguine and Choleric often annoy him, because he is afraid they may motivate him to work! Because of a keen sense of humor, it is easy for him to tease others. He could throw water on Choleric's plans. He is stubborn to changes of any kind, he does not want to get involved. He does not want to get involved. He can often disguise his stubbornness through his easy going good humor. This stubbornness has a tendency to make him stingy and selfish. His first thought is what is it going to cost me. He is more selfish than the others.



The phlegmatic becomes more indecisive through the years because of his unwillingness to get involved. He usually can find a better method for doing something, but by the time he comes up with it, it was necessary to have made a decision to get things rolling. Therefore, if he does decide at a latter date to help, it is half hearted because he feels his plan was better. In making a decision and coming to a practical method of achieving it, he will weigh the method against whether or not he wants to get involved thus he will vacillate between wanting to do something and not wanting to pay the price. This becomes a deep rooted habit. Which can only be overcome by salvation and the Holy Spirit.

There is a danger in presenting these four types of temperaments; some will be tempted to analyze their friends and think of them in the framework of, "What type is he?" This is a demoralizing and precarious practice. Our study of temperaments should be for self-analysis only, except to make us more understanding of the natural weaknesses or shortcomings of others.

(The four basic temperaments were condensed from a book by Tim LaHaye entitled "Spirit-Controlled Temperament")