





1. The person sitting next to me is going to heaven.



- 2. For the most part, humans are naturally good people.
- 3. In my experience, unchurched people act just as kind, if not kinder, than church members.
- 4. God needs us to build up our willpower so that we can follow His decrees.
- 5. God wants us to be self-controlled..



\* WHEN YOU WERE AN ADOLESCENT, DID YOU VIEW RELIGION AS SOMETHING THAT BROUGHT YOUR LIFE MORE FREEDOM, OR LESS?

## READ: Romans 8:5-9

5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. 6 So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. 7 For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. 8 That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. 9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)

- § What do you think being "dominated by the sinful nature" means?
- ¶ What does it mean to be "controlled by the Holy Spirit"?
  - ¬ Paul is talking about this in life and death terms. What is so displeasing to God about those who are under the control of their sinful nature?
    - ‡ It seems like this passage is saying that this will change your cravings. How does that work?

## **READ: Ezekiel 36:26, 27**

26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

¶ What is so important about God's decrees and regulations? I thought He wanted to have a relationship.

notes



## **READ: Romans 8:5-8**

10 And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. 12 Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. 13 For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

- ¶ What do you think God is trying to tell you by connecting the fact that the Holy Spirit, who raised Jesus from the dead, is the One who can live in you and perform the same resurrection for you?
  - ¬ Do you think this "resurrection" only occurs at the Second Coming, or do you think this is referring to a spiritual resurrection now?
    - ‡ What does this section of Scripture show you regarding the character of God? ° Why would God care whether you find pleasure in this life or not?
      - ° Why would acting "naturally human" equal death? Is this God's punishment, or something else?

## this week's conversation with god

- 1. In what ways am I letting my sinful nature dominate my life?
- 2. How am I letting the Holy Spirit control my life?
- 3. What new beautiful element of God's character do I see now?

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