



## Picture of Self Life

Come and take a walk with the Holy Spirit through the corridors of your life; let Him examine your heart and the fruit produce of your life to see just what is coming off the assembly line. A car factory should produce cars, and a shoe factory, shoes. A car factory would be rated a dismal failure if it only produced tricycles and toy trucks! The scripture admonishes us to examine ourselves to see if we be of the faith (II Corinthians 13:5); and that many are deceived into believing that even though their life is producing the fruits of the flesh nature, that they are born again. (I John 3:7-8)

Words describing the old nature –

(Pride – ego – independence – self-sufficiency – Big I – self) – sin factory, body of sin.

Every man inherited this old nature from Adam (Romans 5:12). It is that part of man with a bent toward doing wrong; toward self-centeredness; to revolving life around self and those activities which enhance self. We don't have to teach our children to be selfish, "Me first", "I want the biggest piece", etc., it just comes naturally. From this basic principle of the love of self, and therefore the protection of this self, come the sins, which this self produces. Self is the factory that produces sins. It must be destroyed! It cannot be recycled, changed, educated, conformed, domesticated, disciplined, or dedicated. Self will do anything before it will die! Self looks at everything with an eye as to how it will be affected. It will magnify itself. It is touchy, sensitive when not recognized. It is full of self-defense and deceit. When self gets hurt it might get mad, angry and bitter, or it might feel hurt and full of self-pity (poor me); on the other hand, it might begin to worry and fret about what has happened.

Our old nature is really a factory which produces attitudes which in turn produces sin actions (sins). This ego or "Big I" does not disappear when one becomes a Christian. In fact, Christ's new nature begins to war against the old lower nature within the man. Romans 7:21-24 tells of this war in Paul, which had him saying, "I love to do God's will so far as my new nature is concerned, but there is something else deep within me, in my lower nature, that is at war with my mind and wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. My new life tells me to do right, but the old nature that is still inside me loves to sin. Oh, what a terrible predicament I'm in!" Does that sound and feel familiar? If you are at a point of recognizing that nothing good can come out of your own "self effort, then you are in the position to have God's Spirit fully released into your life. (Even good self-effort which is done in one's own strength...even good things like teaching a Sunday School class or witnessing, which is done without complete and utter dependence upon God is self-life and therefore sin - filthy rags.)

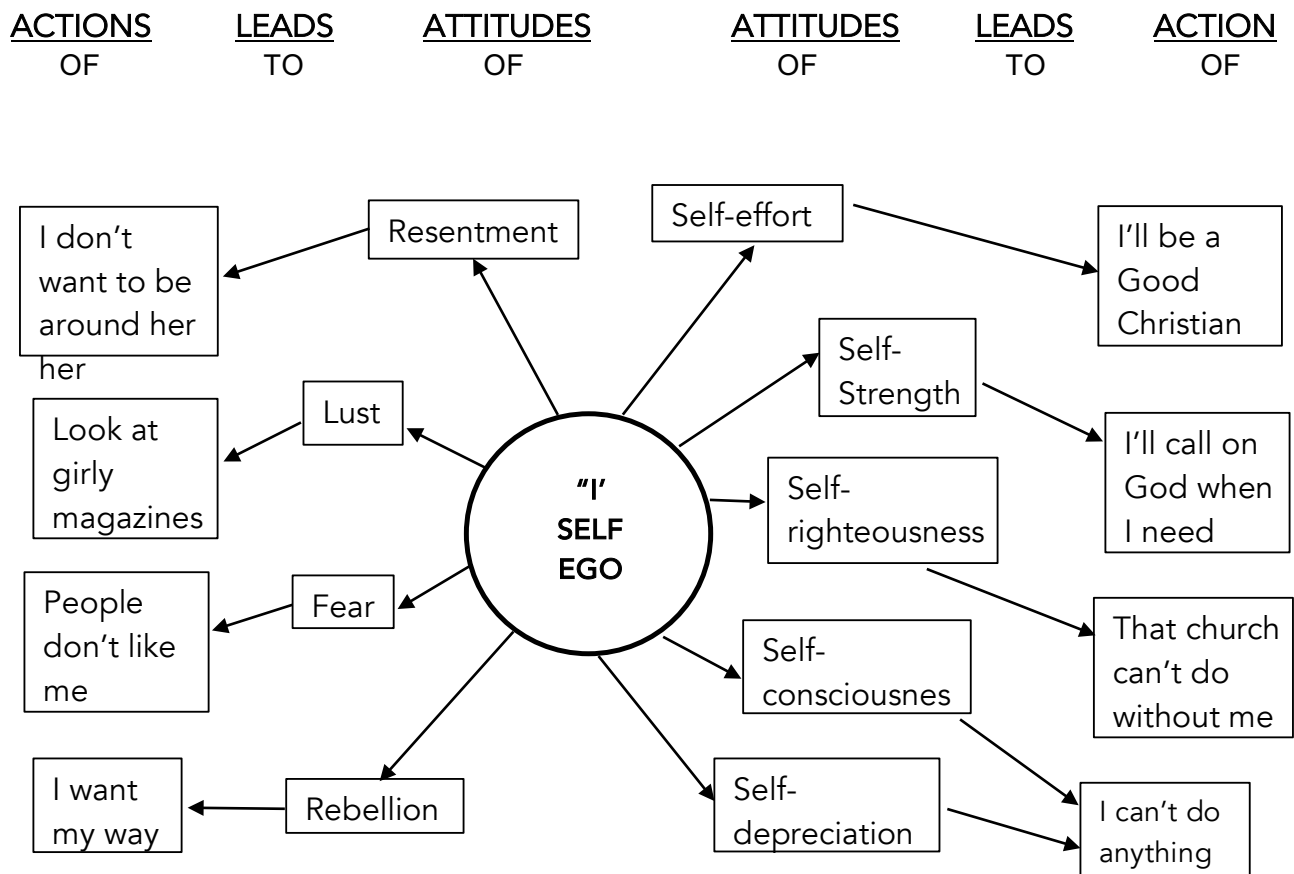


## TWO WAYS OF THE FLESH

Recognized as Wrong

Recognized as Good

### FLESH NATURE



If the devil can't get you to sin through lusting, hating, fearing, etc., then he'll get you to serve God in your own strength. The sin factory just changes the appearance of the package, but inside the box, it's still the same (sin).

This is why so many Christians burn out, have nervous breakdowns, and grow cold and callous and say, "I tried, tried hard, but it just didn't work for me." The works of the flesh can't do the works of God! Do you see it? We have to let Christ come in and take over; tune in to Him to get His will, and then ask Him to be your very strength in doing it. Our part is to abide in Him (John 15:5) — live in Him, and exert our will to obey Him even when we don't feel like it. (John 15:9, 10)



## HOW TO SHUT DOWN THE SIN FACTORY

On Calvary, 2,000 years ago, because of the shed blood of Christ, the door to the sin factory was nailed shut and rendered inoperative. Romans 6:6, "Our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with (made ineffective and inactive for evil) that we should no longer be slaves to sin."

Picture yourself hanging on Calvary with Christ, 2,000 years ago. You were literally in Him in some miraculous way. When He died, your old sin factory was put of business. It is a fact! It is already done! Question sir!! What's this war going on inside of me then? What's this pull toward independence, rebellion, lust, and all the rest? If the sin factory is shut down, where is all of this activity coming from? Good questions — here's the important answers.

Basic truths and facts we must accept by faith because God said so:

- I. Know – Romans 6:6 – Know that our old nature was crucified with Him (rendered ineffective – powerless).  
Romans 6:7 — we are freed from sin (delivered from the power of sin). Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:8 - I have Christ's life and power living in me. He will be my life by faith. It is no longer I who live, but Christ.
- II. Because of these truths and facts this is what I must do: Reckon Romans 6:11 - Reckon (account as fact- believe) your old nature to be rendered powerless and inactive for evil but alive to God in Christ Jesus (alive and good). We don't put ourselves to death. We are already dead. You can't get inside a room that you're already in. Believe - reckon it so. Ask God to reveal this truth to you in your inner being.
- III. Present - Romans 6:13 - Present your bodies to God (every part- mind, hands, stomach, ears, etc.) as instruments of doing right. Daily, make a deliberate choice of presenting and giving yourself to God, rather than to the old nature. We will be a slave to whoever we present our members. We are to believe our old natures to be rendered inoperative - by faith; crucified with Christ on the cross, and believe that Christ's life actually pulsates in and through you as you submit yourself to Him and reckon this fact to be true. Can you see it? When one gets to this point, either he chooses to sin, or he chooses to let Christ reign in him. Who is controlling you?
- IV. Resulting Benefits – Romans 6:19-22 – Sanctification – holiness – becoming like Jesus - receiving eternal life – that God like quality of life which only Christ Jesus Himself can produce in a person - becoming conformed to the very image of God Himself. Romans 8:29,30

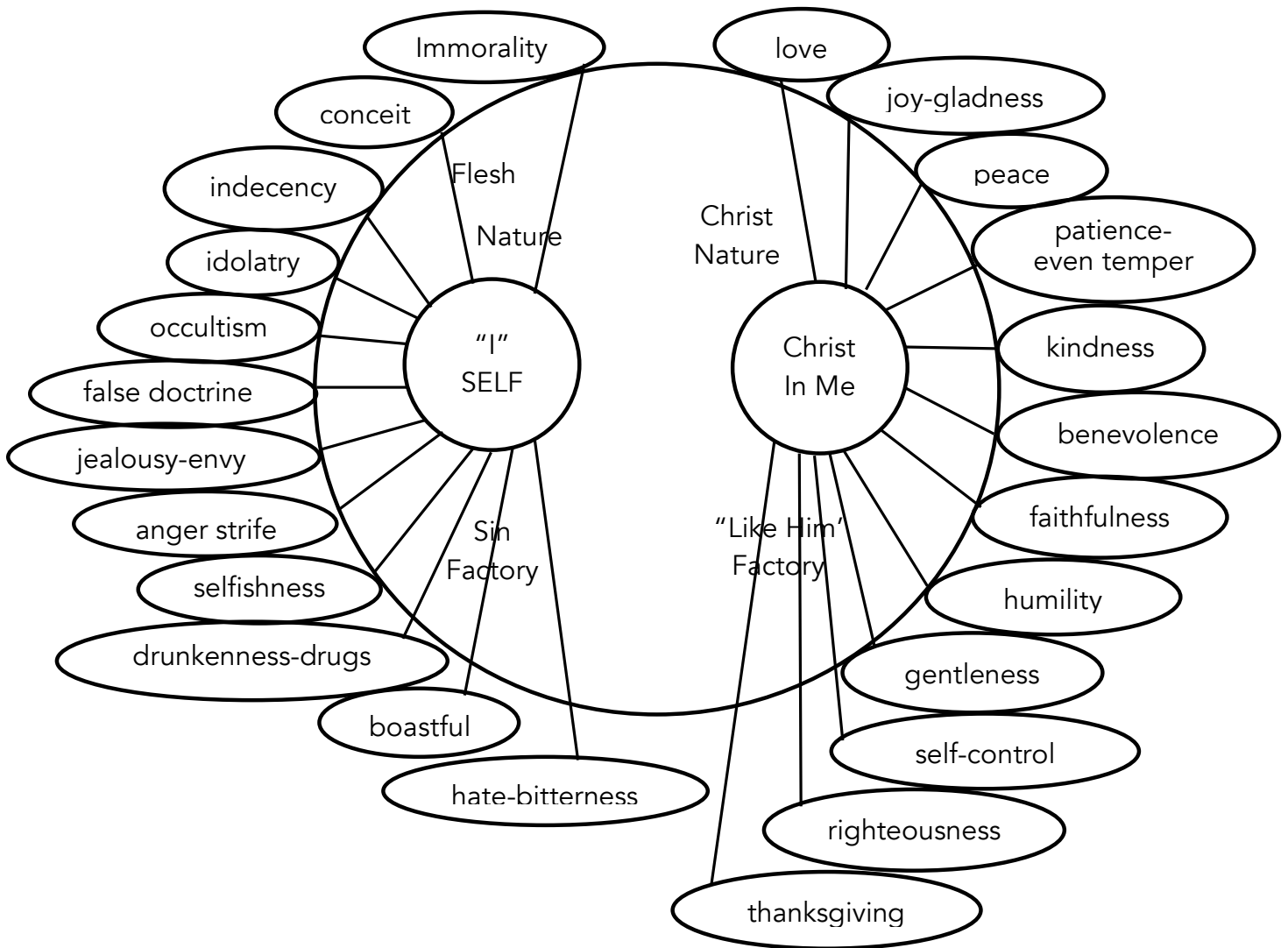


## THE WAR AND THE WALK

### LIFE FRUITS

Galatians 5:20, 21, 26

Galatians 5:22, 23



**WHICH FRUITS BEST DESCRIBE YOUR LIFE -  
FLESH FRUIT OR CHRIST-LIKENESS FRUIT?**

II Corinthians 13:5, "Test yourself to see if you are in the faith; examine yourself."  
Galatians 5:16, "Walk in the Spirit so that you won't fulfill the lusts of the flesh."