



With your tablemates determine a possible theme for the following verses:

1 Peter 1:22

Colossians 3:23

Romans 1:15

Titus 2:14

1 Peter 5:2

1 Peter 1:22

fervently love

Colossians 3:23

work heartedly

Romans 1:15

eager to preach

Titus 2:14

zealous for good deeds

1 Peter 5:2

shepherd with eagerness

Enthusiasm?

*Greater*  
MIRACLE TEMPLE



SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00AM  
WORSHIP 11:00AM  
THE BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM  
THE PRAYER MEETING 7:00PM

CALL 911  
THIS CHURCH IS  
ON FIRE!

BISHOP J.A. HENDERSON  
*Pastor*

On Friday morning it caught fire after a tree limb fell, exposing live electrical wires, fire officials say.



**Acts 2:42** They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

4342 continually devoting themselves

Vine's – to be strong towards

Thayer's – to give constant attention to a thing

“into it”

To be very interested or enthusiastic or passionate about something, be interested in something in an active way, really like doing something.

Before you get too excited Dave,  
don't forget about sufferings and tribulations.

**Romans 5:2** ... we exult in hope of the glory of God.

<sup>3</sup> And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations ...

<sup>11</sup> And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

As Christians we can be enthusiastic about good things and challenging things, but being enthusiastic about a Person is the main thing.

**Philippians 4:4** Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! ... (MSG)

Merriam Webster – It may come as a surprise to many people, when they first look up the word *enthusiasm*, to see that its original meaning has to do with passion for religion, rather than passionate or eager interest in general. A brief explanation of the word's etymology should clear this up.

*Enthusiasm* entered the English language around the beginning of the 17th century. It was borrowed from the Greek *enthousiasmos*, meaning “inspiration or possession by a god.” For the first two hundred or so years that it was used in English, *enthusiasm* was primarily employed to refer to beliefs or passions that related to religion. By the beginning of the 18th century, however, the word began to be used to describe having strong feelings or interest in secular matters.

This weekend I want to share a few things that have helped me be more enthusiastic in the original sense of the word.



**Colossians 2:14** We owed a debt because we broke God's laws. That debt listed all the rules we failed to follow. But God forgave us that debt. He took away that debt and nailed it to the cross. (ICB)



Pickles?

An ancient Greek wrote about pickling.

“Baptize” the vegetable in vinegar.

Baptize (907): to dip, to immerse

So something that is baptized gets placed into something.



When we become a Christian we are placed into Christ.

**Romans 6:3** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized [placed into] into Christ...

This is spiritual not physical.

**1 Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit we were all baptized [placed] into one body...

Several things happen when we are placed into Christ.

**Romans 6:3** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized [placed into] into Christ Jesus have been baptized [placed into] into His death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism [being placed into] into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Death

Buried

Raised

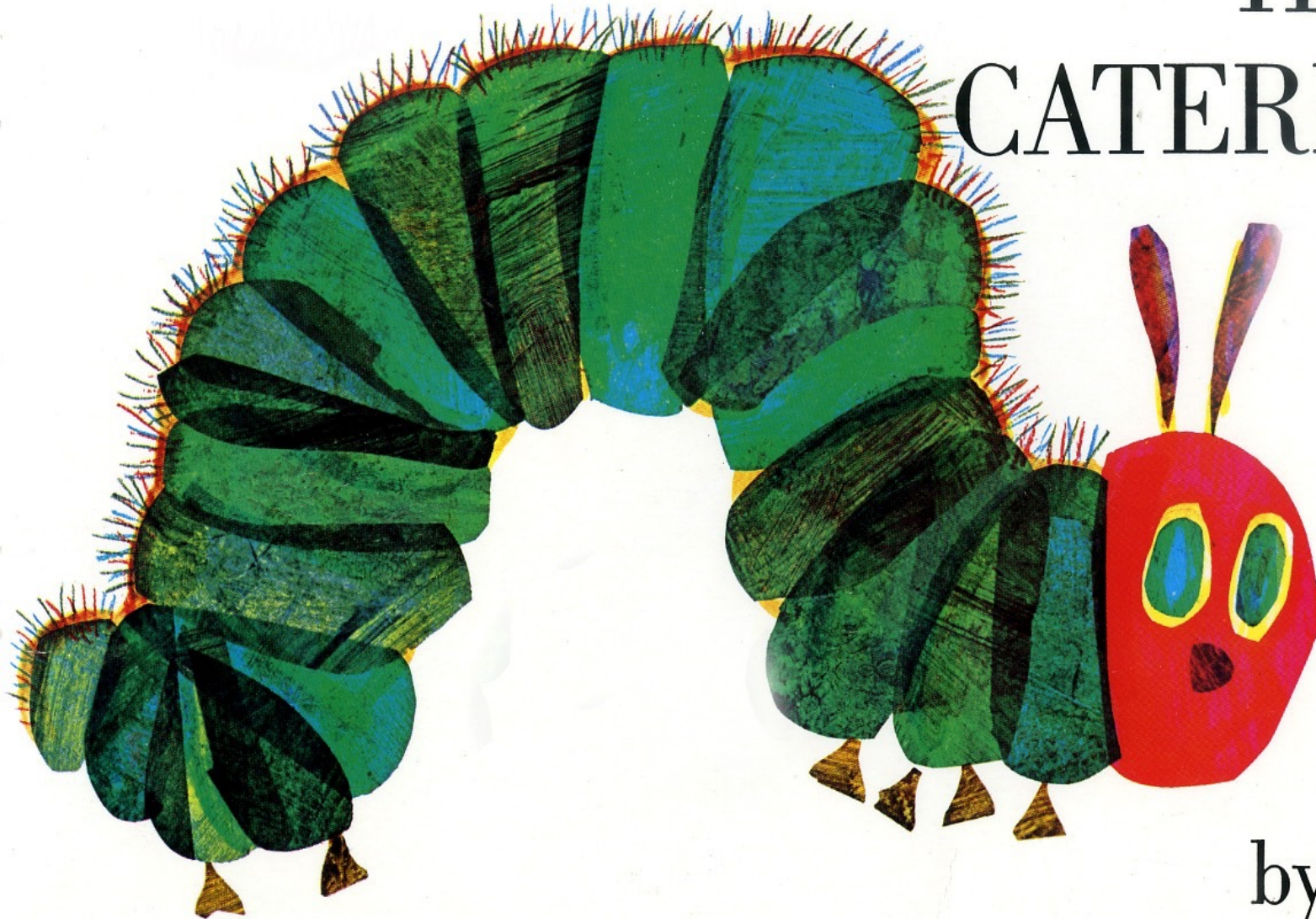
Death, buried, raised ... See why physical water baptism is an appropriate picture to explain being spiritually placed into Christ.



“Baptism” can make that part of Romans 6 seem pretty religious etc. but the passage is really just saying that since you have a damaged soul/spirit you need to get it fixed by getting rid of your old wrong-self and getting a new right-self.



# THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR



by Eric Carle

In the light of the moon a little egg lay on a leaf.



One Sunday morning the warm sun came up and - pop! - out of the egg came a tiny and very hungry caterpillar.



He started to look for some food.





On Monday  
he ate through  
one apple.  
But he was still  
hungry.



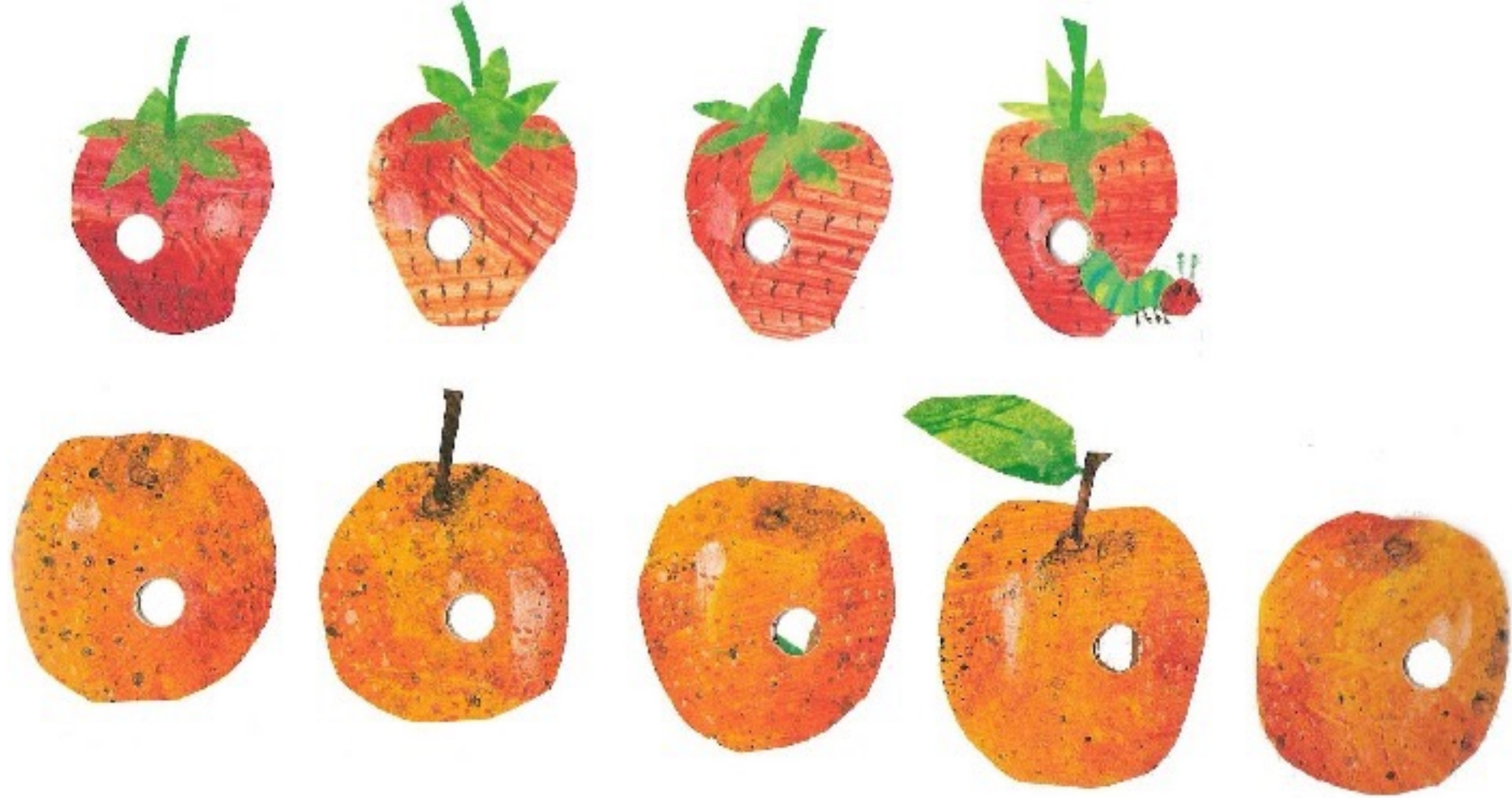
On Tuesday  
he ate through  
two pears,  
but he was  
still hungry.



On Wednesday he ate through three plums,  
but he was still hungry.

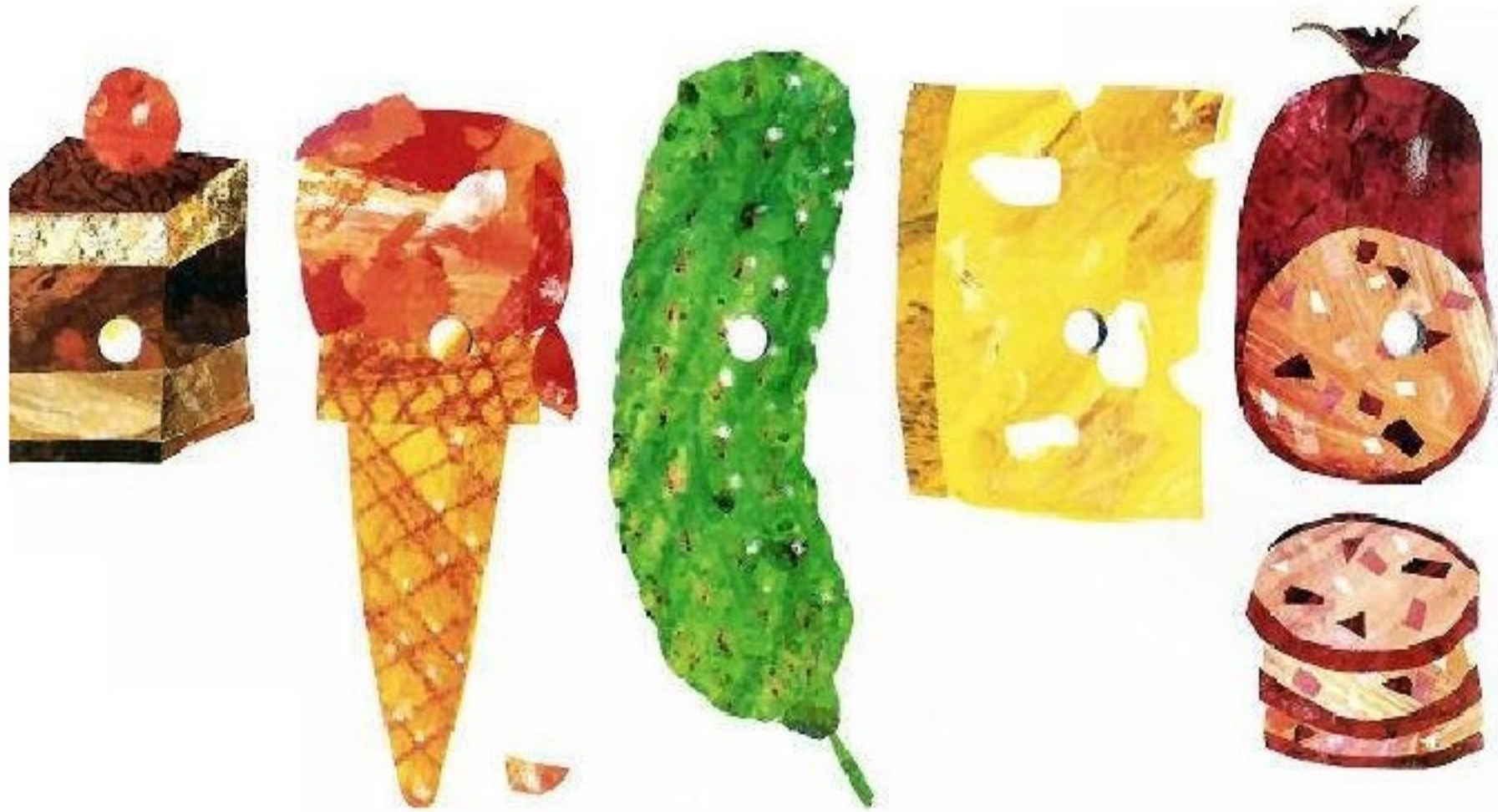


On Thursday he ate through  
four strawberries, but he was still hungry.



On Friday he ate through five oranges,  
but he was still hungry.

On Saturday, he ate through one piece of chocolate cake,  
one ice-cream cone, one pickle, one slice of Swiss cheese,  
one slice of salami.



one lollipop, one piece of cherry pie, one sausage, one cupcake, and one slice of watermelon.



That night he had a stomachache!

The next day was Sunday again.  
The caterpillar ate through one green leaf,  
and after that he felt much better.



Now he wasn't hungry anymore-and he wasn't a little caterpillar anymore.  
He was a big fat caterpillar.



He built a small house, called a cocoon, around himself. He stayed inside for more than two weeks. Then he nibbled a hole in the cocoon, pushed his way out and...



he was a beautiful butterfly!



# Eric Carle 1929 - 2021



If you were to see a butterfly, it would never occur to you to say, “Hey look everybody! Come look at this good-looking converted worm.” ... No, now it is a new creature, and you do not think of it in terms of what it was. You see it as it is now – a butterfly.

p. 78

OVER 600,000 SOLD WORLDWIDE

# CLASSIC CHRISTIANITY

Life's Too  
Short to Miss  
the  
Real Thing

**BOB GEORGE**

Yet all the time I hear Christians referring to themselves as “just an old sinner saved by grace.” No! That’s like calling a butterfly a converted worm. p. 79



Some people teach that you have both  
an old wrong-self (sinner) and  
a new right-self (saint).

Sometimes this called being dual natured.  
(That you are a caterpillar and a butterfly.)

With your tablemates, look up the following verses to see if you think that the old wrong-self is gone.

2 Cor. 5:17

Rom 6:6

Col 3:9

Rom 5:8, Eph 5:8, Col 1:21, Rom 5:10, Eph 2:3, 1 Cor 6:10,11

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

**Romans 6:6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

**Colossians 3:9** Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**Ephesians 5:8** for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

**Colossians 1:21** And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds,

**Romans 5:10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, ...

**Ephesians 2:3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

**1 Cor. 6:10-11** nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

This issue is not just theological quibbling.

It can really impact your enthusiasm.





People tend to behave like who they think they are.

I will be more apt to act saintly if I believe I am a saint.

I will be less likely to fall to temptation if I think “that is not who I am”.

self:

broken vs. fixed

If you are already fixed (by being replaced) you can stop spending all that time and effort trying to get what you already have ...

all that time spent making plans on how to fix yourself, trying to fix yourself, lamenting about your failed attempts, being upset with others you view as hindering your attempts etc.

others:

means vs. ends

No longer need to use others to bolster your identity by seeking praise from them or by putting them down.

**John 5:44** How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another ...

**Luke 18:9** And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

relationship w/God:

distant vs. close.

Peter - Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man...  
(Luke 5:8)

I don't have to wait until next week to experience  
closeness with God.

The implications of being single natured are easy to get enthusiastic about.

However, to more fully experience the benefits of a belief, it helps if you are confident in that belief.

Since it is commonly taught that we are dual natured, that might lead us to doubt whether we really are single natured and dampen our enthusiasm.

Let's think about why many Christians believe that we still have an old-self after we become Christians?

They may think “but I still look like my old self.”



Our body (including our brain) change does not come until later.

**Philippians 3:20** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **21** who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory...

They may think the Bible still defines them as sinners.

**1 Timothy 1:15** ... Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinners**, among whom I am foremost of all.

**16** Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

Hey unbelievers...if I wasn't too bad of a sinner for God to save, then you are not either.

“Sinners”: who we are before we become Christians.

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NET)



If you dig it out for yourself, you will find over 50 times the Bible refers to people after they have become Christians as saints.

After **Acts 2**, sinner(s) is used 13 times.

Typically, this term refers to people before they become a Christian. (Like two slides ago.)

In all 13 cases, a reasonable explanation exists that “sinner” is not being used to define the identity of a believer.

They may think that it would be prideful to say that you are a saint and no longer a sinner.



It might be if we thought that what we did made us a saint.

**1 Corinthians 1:30** But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification [santification], and redemption,

**31** so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

By the way, there is becoming-a-Christian sanctification and living-as-a-Christian sanctification.

**1 Corinthians 1:2** To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling ...

**Hebrews 10:10** By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

They may think:

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (KJV)



Ask yourself if a verse is talking about before or after you become a Christian.

**Acts 15:9** and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.

They may think

**Romans 7:24** Wretched man  
that I am!

Before he was a Christian?

No, Paul is a Christian here.

“Wretched” means distressed/miserable not  
bad/sinful.



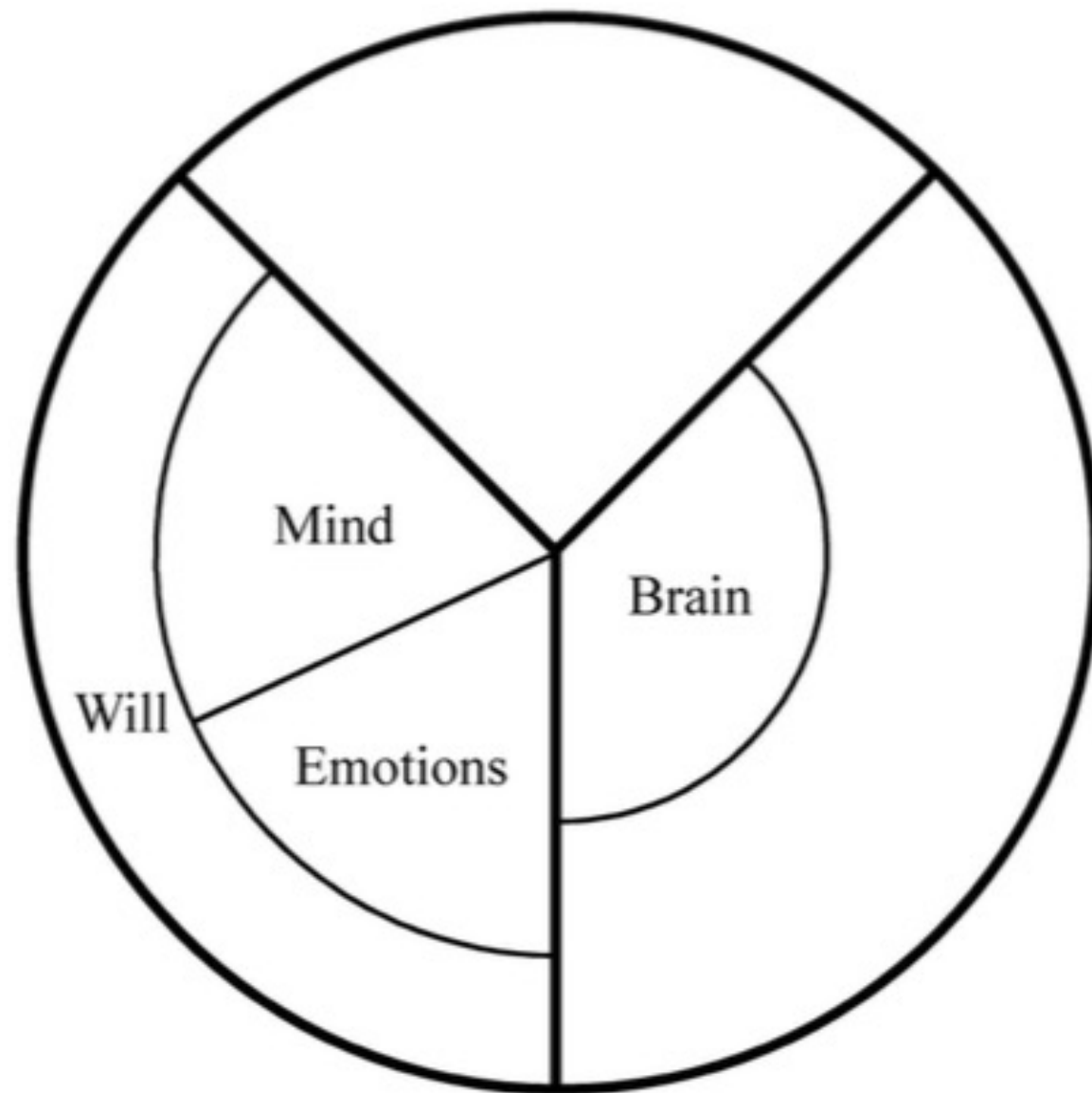
They may think “flesh” is the same as the old wrong-self.

**Romans 7:18** For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh;

**Spirit**

**Soul**

**Body**



Mind

Brain

Will

Emotions

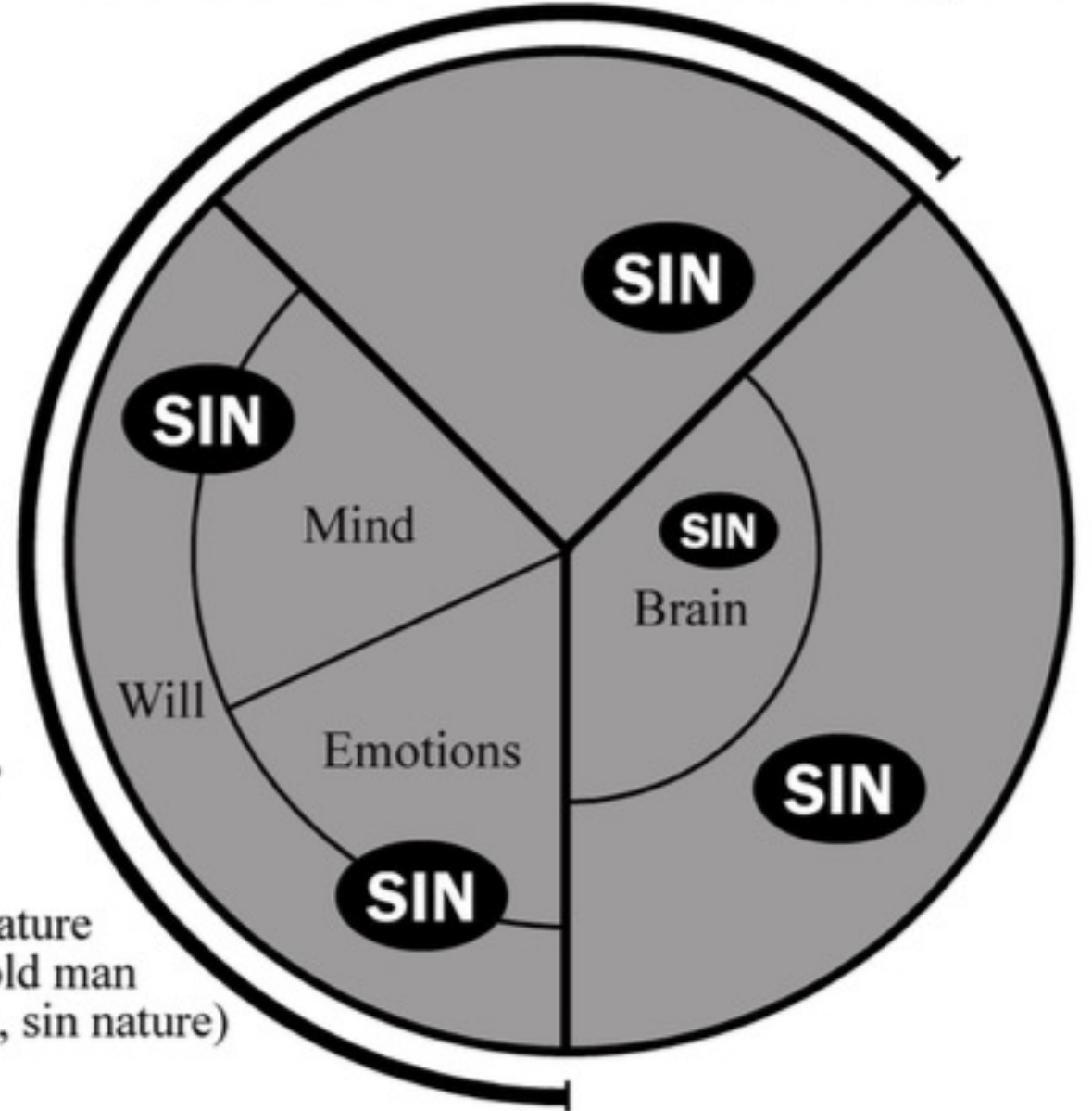
Before “pickles”.

Diagram 9

## The Old Self was Soul and Spirit

### The Old Self

Adamic Nature  
(old self, old man  
dead spirit, sin nature)



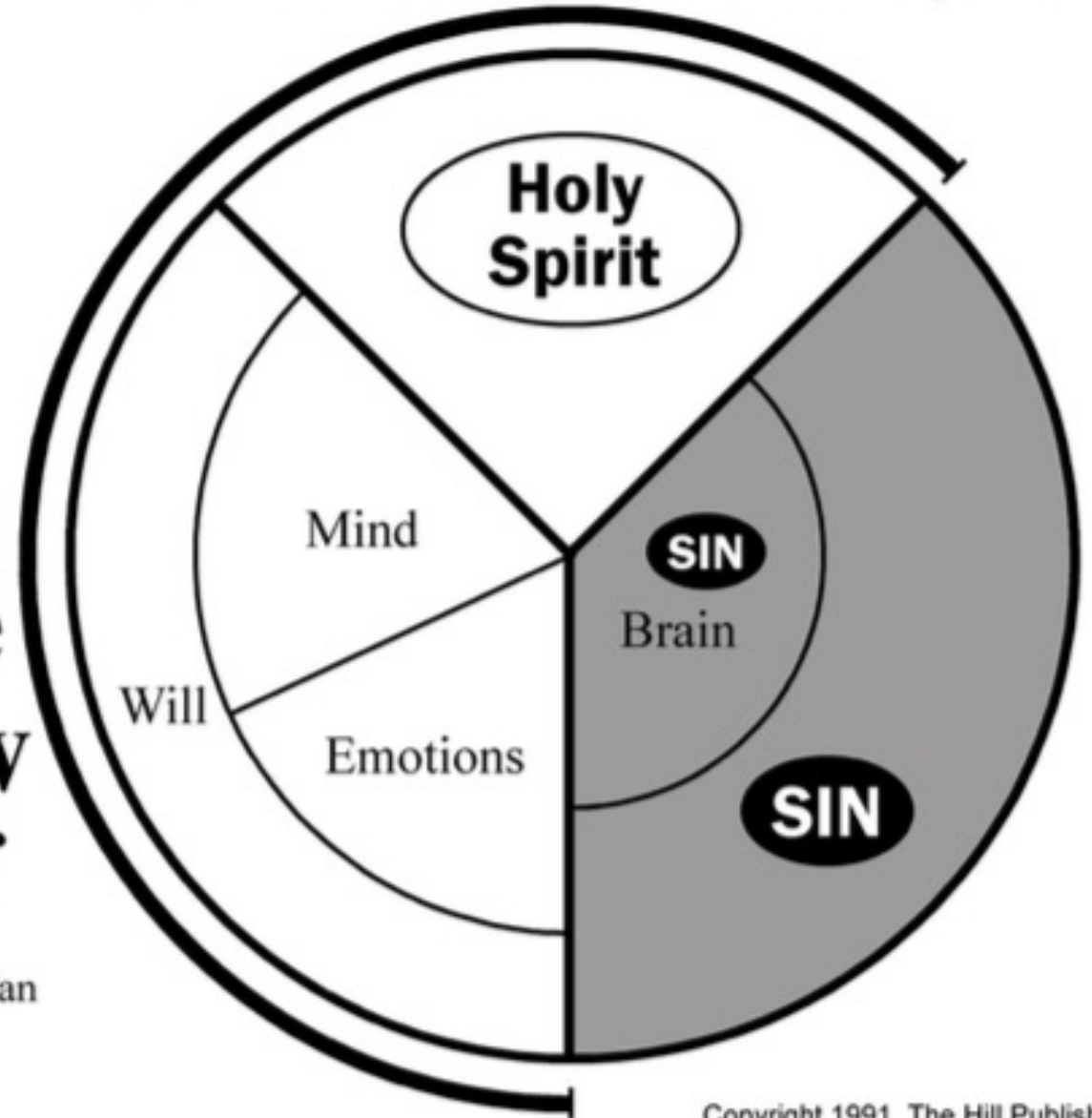
After “pickles”, we still have our old bodies.

**Rom 7:18** For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh [body];

## The New Self is Soul and Spirit

### The New Self

The New Man



What makes things worse is that some versions of the Bible translate “flesh” as sinful nature (old wrong-self).

**Romans 7:18** For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. (NIV)

**Romans 7:18** For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh. (DLNT)

flesh ≠ self, soul, spirit, the real you

They may think that “what you do is who you are”.

If I farm, then I am a farmer.

If I teach, then I am a teacher.

So since I sin, then I must still be a sinner.

This is how we talk in everyday language, but in the Bible, does our activity define our true nature?

The Bible indicates that people can act counter to their identity.

Before people become Christians, they can do some right things but that does not change who they are on the inside.

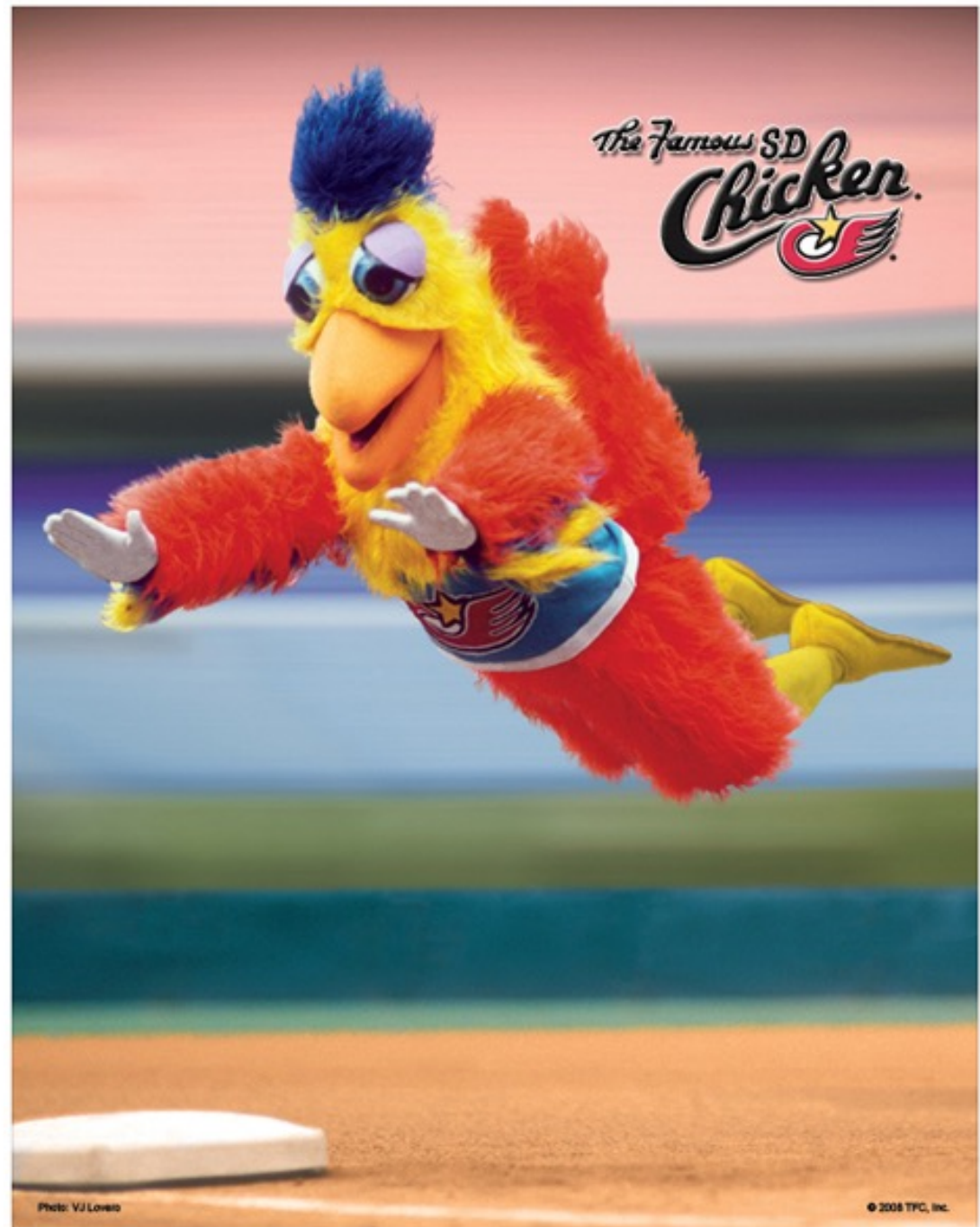
**Matthew 23:28** So you too, outwardly appear righteous to people, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

After people become Christians, they can do some wrong things, but that does not change who they are on the inside.

**1 Corinthians 1:2**...to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints...**3:3**...are you not walking like mere men?

Am I still human even if  
I don't always act human?

So maybe I can still be a saint  
even if I don't always act saintly.



Each of the following indicate that it is possible for believers to act counter to their true identity.

**1 Peter 1:14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, **15** but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; (Saying “don’t do it” implies that it is possible for believers to conform to their former lusts.)

**Ephesians 1:1...to the saints...4:17** So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk...

(Implies that saints can live like Gentiles.)

**Ephesians 5:7** Therefore do not be partakers with them; **8** for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of light... **11** Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness,...

(Implies that we can participate in darkness.)

Therefore, what you do is not who you are.

This is why the new right-self can still do wrong things and not be dual natured.

Now you know more about why people teach that your old wrong-self is not gone ... and some shortcomings of these arguments.

This may make you more confident in your belief of your single naturedness which should foster you more fully experiencing the benefits of this belief which should bring more enthusiasm into your life.

**Review:**



SAINTE

OR

Sinner?



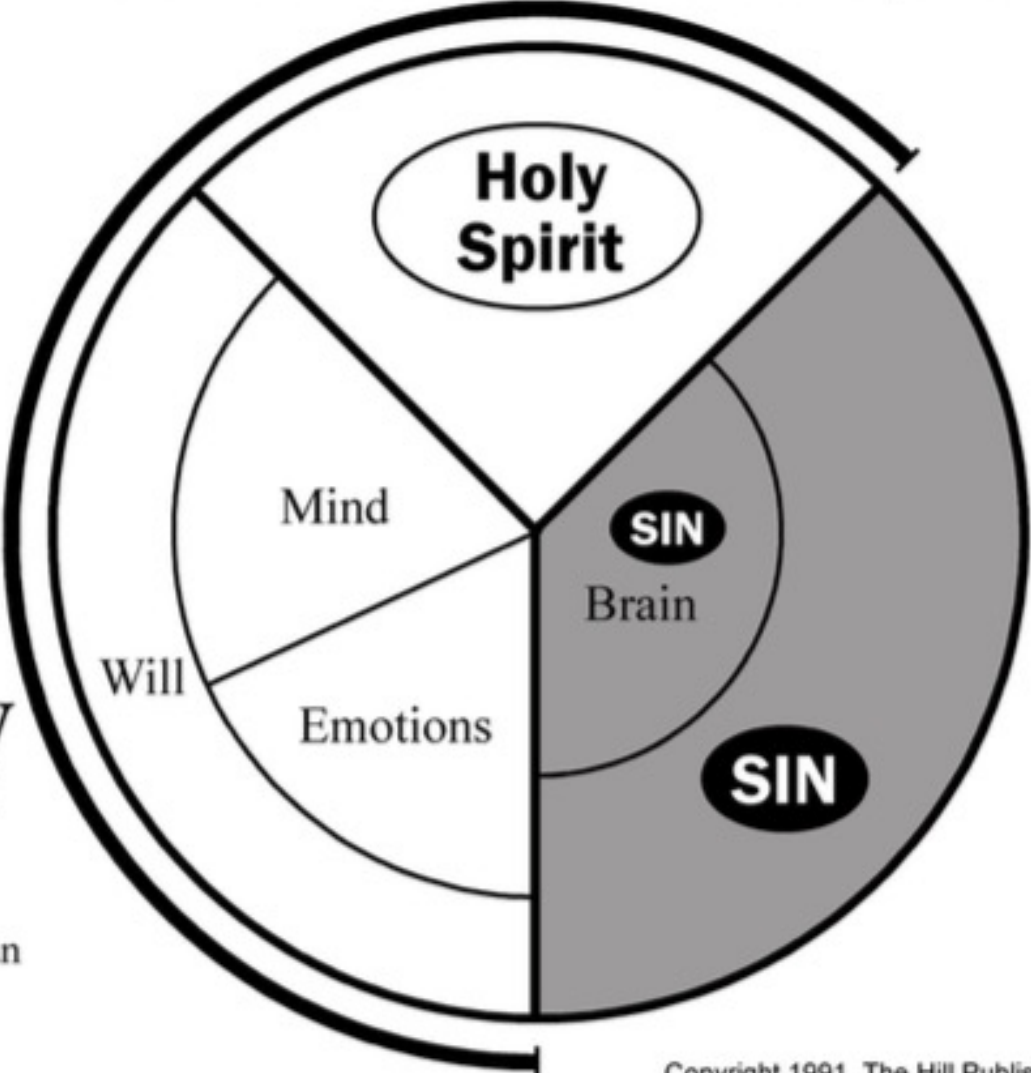




# The New Self is Soul and Spirit

# The New Self

The New Man





The Famous SD  
Chicken

Photo: VJ Lovato

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