

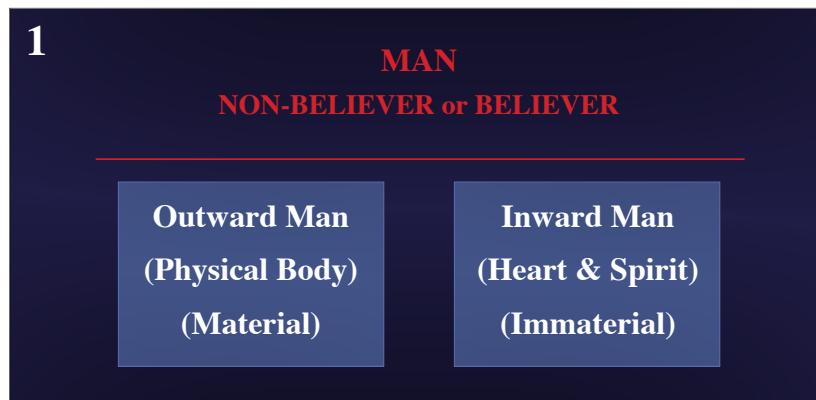


OUTWARD MAN & INNER MAN DISTINCTIONS

(Source: Appendix B from *ESCAPE*)

This Article delves into various theological positions regarding the interworking of the inner man in conjunction with the Spirit, as it relates to Christian living. Based on Ezekiel 26:26-27, the author addresses a two-part inner man (mind and human spirit) of the new man, as well as the indwelling Holy Spirit. [Note: While the interworking of the inner man with the Spirit is not clearly stated in Scripture, assumptions guided by study lead to the formulation of conclusions.]

The Bible differentiates between the physical “outward man” as opposed to the invisible, internal “inward or inner man.” The outward man refers to the physical body, while the inner man involves the mind (heart) and human spirit, as shown in chart 1.



A further explanation of both the outward man and the inner man are delineated below.

Outward Man & Inner Man

Outward Man

Flesh

1. Flesh is the physical body.
2. Flesh is receptive to sight, touch, smell, taste, etc. (sensors)
3. Flesh conveys to the mind information for decision-making.
4. Flesh is not evil.
5. Flesh has no power to cause sins.
6. Flesh is the instrument of either sinful or godly conduct determined by choices.

Sinful Flesh

1. Sinful flesh is synonymous with “propensity to sin.”
2. Sinful flesh has no power and *never* causes sinful behavior.
3. Sinful flesh is manifest through the flesh.

Sin

1. Sin is observed/experienced through flesh’s receptors.
2. Acts of sin are through the instrument of the flesh.

Sin’s Power (Power of Sin)

1. Biblically, there is no “power of sin”
2. Rather, sinful flesh activated by bad choices manifests acts of sin.

Inner Man

Composition¹

1. Mind (Heart)
 - Mind is the first element of the two-part inner man (based on Ezek 36:26).
 - Mind relates to thinking and decision-making.
 - Mind considers suggestions, ideas, etc.
 - Mind is susceptible to evil suggestions, ideas, etc.
 - Mind of non-believer is darkened, unable to respond to God.
 - Mind of believer is illumined and responsive to God.
 - Brain is merely the physical organ and should not be confused with the mind.
2. Spirit (Human)
 - Spirit is the second element of the two-part inner man (based on Ezek 36:26).
 - Spirit of non-believer is predisposed to sin (disobedience to God).
 - Spirit of believer is predisposed to God (obedience to God).

Natures (see Appendix A, Supplement of Escape)

1. Biblically, there is no “sin nature” with power to cause bad behavior.
2. Biblically, the “disposition to sin” has no power to cause bad behavior.
3. Biblically, there is no “divine nature” with power to cause good behavior
4. Biblically, the “disposition to God” has no power to cause good behavior

Old Man & New Man

Throughout the Bible a distinction is made between the “old” man and the “new” man. The old man relates to the non-believer who has a darkened mind and an ungodly human spirit, while the new man is the believer who has an illumined mind and a godly human spirit. A further explanation of both the old man and the new man follows.

Preliminary Orientation

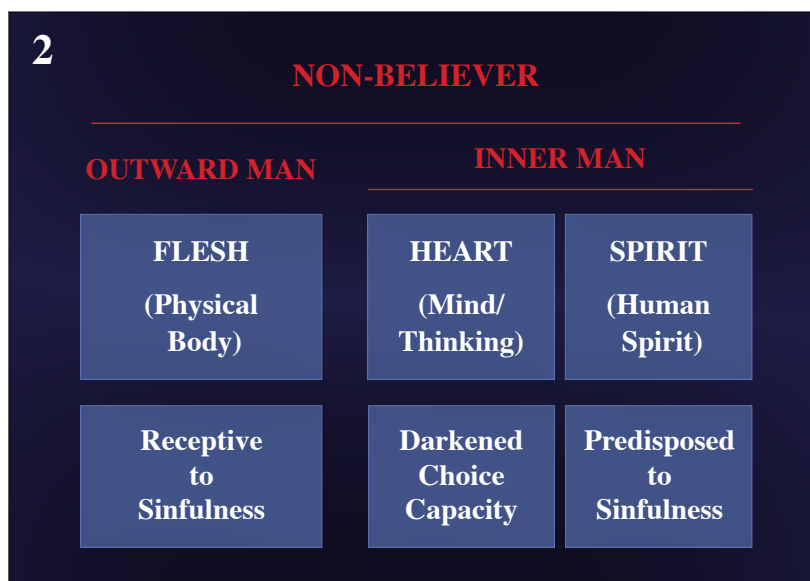
1. Related New Testament texts:

New Man (regenerate man)	—	“being transformed”	—	2 Cor 3:18
New Man (regenerate man)	—	“being renewed”	—	Col 3:10
New Man (regenerate man)	—	“being transformed”	—	Rom 12:2
Mind	—	“being renewed”	—	Rom 12:2
Inner Man	—	“being renewed”	—	2 Cor 4:16
Inner Man	—	“being strengthened”	—	Eph 3:16
<i>New Man</i> (regenerate man)	—	“being renewed”	—	Eph 4:23

(“in the spirit of your mind”)
2. New man includes both a heart/mind and a human spirit.
3. New man can be transformed and renewed through the renewing of the mind.
4. Renewing of mind involves growing in conformity to God’s Word.

Old Man = Non-Believer

The non-believer is receptive to the world’s sinful lure. The mind’s ability to make choices is spiritually darkened, with his spirit predisposed to sinfulness, as shown in chart 2.



Premise (with supporting texts):

1. Darkened mind + ungodly human spirit = inner man
[Rom 6:6; Col 3:9]
2. Darkened mind does not change/progress
[Rom 1:18, 21; 1 Cor 2:14; Eph 2:3]
3. Ungodly human spirit remains constant/unchanging
[1 Cor 2:14; Eph 2:3]

Conclusion:

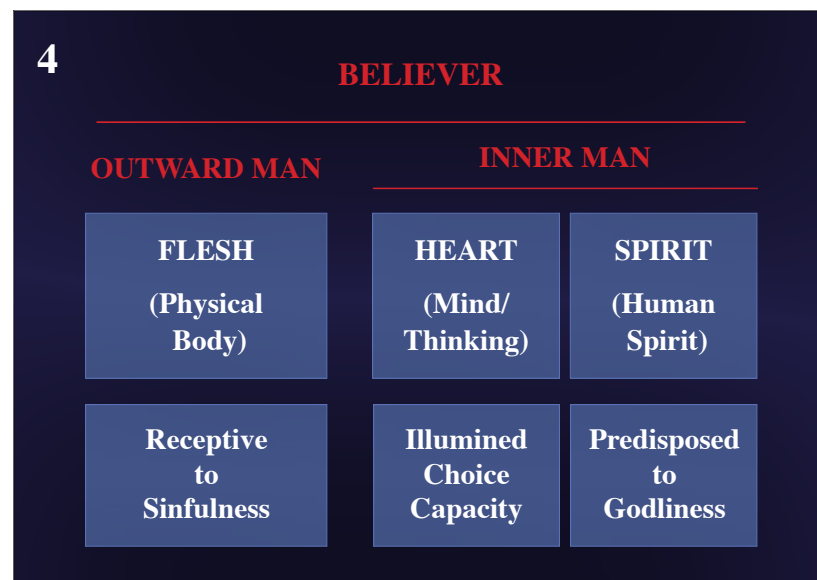
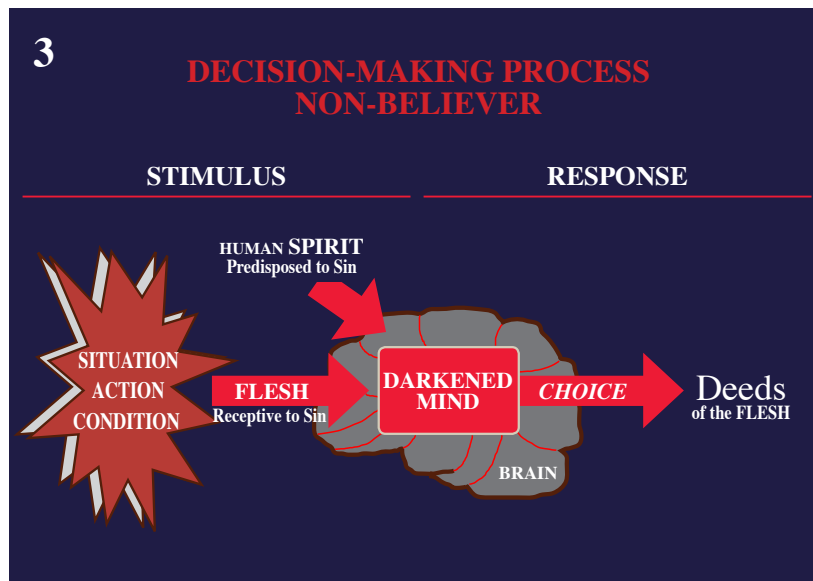
1. Non-believer's inner man cannot change or progress. Non-believers continually sin.
2. Interaction between the mind and spirit:
The darkened mind *always aligns with* the ungodly desires of the human spirit. As a result, sin is the product of the continual merging of the sinful choices of the mind with the ungodly human spirit.
3. Non-believer's decision-making process:
Through the flesh, worldly inputs, which the ungodly human spirit is predisposed, influence and stimulate the darkened mind to choose to sin (see chart 3).

*New Man =
Believer*

The believer's outward man is likewise receptive to the world. However, the mind's ability to make choices is spiritually illuminated and the believer's spirit is predisposed to godliness, as shown in chart 4.

Premise (with supporting texts):

1. Illumined mind + godly human spirit = inner man
[Ezek 11:19; 36:26; Jer 31:33; Heb 10:16; Col 3:10]
2. Illumined mind can experience renewal/change/progress
[Rom 12:2; 1 Cor 2:15-16]
3. Inner man can experience renewal/change/progress
[2 Cor 4:16; Col 3:10]
4. Godly human spirit remains constant/unchanging
[1 John 3:9]



Conclusion:

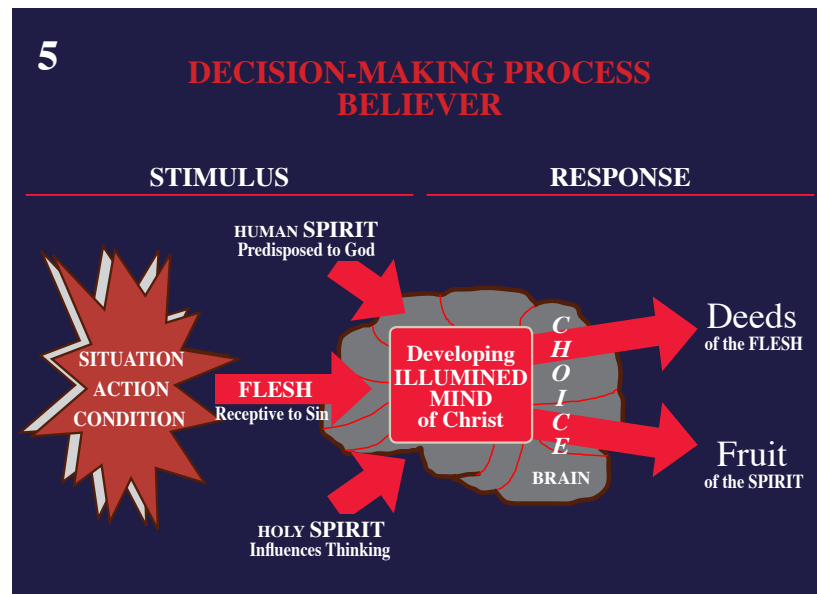
1. New inner man can be renewed via the renewed and illumined mind without the godly human spirit changing.
2. Interaction between the mind and spirit:
 - When the illumined mind *aligns with* the godly desires of the human spirit, the Christian does not sin. He cannot sin.
 - When the illumined mind *ignores* the godly desires of the human spirit, the Christian sins.
 - As the illumined mind increasingly grows in and embraces Biblical truth, the choices of the mind increasingly agree with the godly desires of the human spirit. As a result, the desires of both the mind and the spirit increasing merge. On the other hand, if the mind drifts from the godly desires of the spirit, the outcome is sin.

3. “Mind of Christ” (1 Cor 2:15-16):

The “mind of Christ” corresponds to the believer’s illumined mind that can develop and progress in harmony to God, while the “new heart/mind” of Ezekiel 36:26 relates to the future, millennial kingdom.

4. Believer’s decision-making process:

Worldly inputs through the flesh can sway the illumined mind. On the other hand, if allowed the Spirit of God can influence the illumined mind to that which the godly human spirit is predisposed. As the believer places himself at the disposal of the Spirit’s influence, he chooses godly behavior. If not, he will opt for sinful behavior (see chart 5).



**Supplement
Internalizing Biblical Laws**

Believers must inscribe the law of Moses and/or the law of Christ in their illumined minds in order to experience intimacy with God.

1. Old Testament believers were to inscribe the Mosaic Law in their minds (Prov 3:3; 7:2-3).
2. New Testament believers are to inscribe the Law of Christ in their minds (Rom 12:2, renewing).
3. Related ideas:

Mosaic Law	— inscribed on stone	— external	— OT only
Law of Christ	— inscribed on paper	— external	— NT only
Law in Heart	— inscribed on mind	— internal	— OT&NT
4. Walking with respect to the flesh (Rom 7 style) refers to conformity to the Mosaic Law through outward performance (external law with external actions), contrasted with inscribing the Mosaic Law (OT) or Law of Christ (NT) in the mind (heart).
5. Walking with respect to the Spirit (Rom 8/Gal 5 style) is to inscribe the Mosaic Law (OT) or Law of Christ (NT) in the mind (heart), leading to righteous behavior (internal law with external actions).

Timeframe

Past—Old Testament Saints²

1. Old Testament believers were declared righteous through faith in God's promise (Rom 4:2-3), suggesting that they possessed a human spirit predisposed to godliness (Jam 2:21-24), but differing from non-believers' human spirit and from the future "new spirit" prophesied in Ezek 36:26.
2. The prophesied future "new spirit" indicates OT saints already possessed an existing "godly spirit."
3. OT saints could choose to obey God and God's Law (Heb 11:4-39; Jam 2:21-24) even without the indwelling Spirit, a future event prophesied in Ezek 36:27.
4. OT saints were to inscribe the Mosaic Law in their minds (Prov. 3:3; 7:2-3), indicating an ability of an illumined mind.
5. A prophesied future "new mind" shows OT saints already possessed an existing "illumined mind."

Present—New Testament Christians³

1. Christians are declared righteous through faith in Christ (Rom 3:21-22; Eph 2:8), suggesting that they possessed a human spirit predisposed to godliness.
2. Christians can choose to obey God and the "law of Christ."
3. Christians are to inscribe the "law of Christ" in their minds (Rom 12:2, renewing), indicating an ability of an illumined mind (1 Cor 2:15-16).

Future—Millennial Kingdom People⁴

1. God imposes New Covenant prophesies on His chosen people (Jer 31:31, 33).
2. His people will return to their land (Ezek 36:24, 28).
3. God will "cleanse" (referring to justification) His people (Ezek 36:25).
4. His people will be given both a "new" mind and "new" human spirit (Ezek 36:26; Jer 31:33), which are different from those in the past and present periods.
5. His people will be given the "Spirit" (Ezek 36:27).
6. His people will be "caused" to obey God (Ezek 36:27).
7. His people will "all know" God (referring to sanctification, Jer 31:34)



Endnotes

1. The "mind and spirit" designation for the inner man is based on Ezekiel 36:26. That text addresses the New covenant and the capabilities God provides to His people to live obediently before Him. From that context of obediently living, it seems natural that those aspects of the inner man encompass any consideration for understanding man and godly living.
2. Those who hold the Amillennial position do not believe Old Testament Saints could obey God, even though Hebrews 11 is replete with illustrations of obedience by Saints of old.
3. Those who hold the Amillennial position believe New Testament Christians experience the fulfillment of all the prophecies of Ezekiel 36.
4. Those who hold the Amillennial position do not believe there will be a millennial kingdom. They believe all the prophecies of Ezekiel 36 are fulfilled in the Church, which they believe replaced Israel in God's program.