

NATURE, NATURES

God knows everything about us, including the **nature** of our physical body before it even exists.

- **Psalm 139:16:** "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."

There's wisdom to be found in the animal kingdom. There are some creatures in **nature** that set a good example for us to follow.

- **Proverbs 6:6-8:** "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest."

The heart of a fool isn't hidden. Fools reveal their foolish **nature**.

- **Proverbs 14:33:** "Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known."

You can tell whether a person is wise or a fool by their words. The things that they say reveal their true **nature**.

- **Proverbs 15:2:** "The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness."

A person who seeks to stir up strife is revealing something about their **nature**. They're showing that they are full of wrath.

- **Proverbs 15:18:** "A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife."

It's not fitting for fools to say wise things. This is because they're fools, and wisdom isn't part of their **nature**.

- **Proverbs 17:7:** "Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince."

Our inward **nature** isn't hidden from God.

- **Proverbs 20:27:** "The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly."

Physical discipline can change a person's inward **nature** and cause them to turn away from their evil ways.

- **Proverbs 20:30:** "The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly."

The true **nature** of a person is how they think in their heart.

- **Proverbs 23:7:** "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee."

Fools can't obtain wisdom. It's impossible because their foolish **nature** prevents it.

- **Proverbs 24:7:** "Wisdom is too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate."

Solomon compared a fool returning to his foolishness to a dog eating its own vomit. It's disgusting, but it's their **nature** to do so.

- **Proverbs 26:11:** "As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly."

How much you appreciate something depends more on whether you're hungry rather than **nature** of what you're being given.

- **Proverbs 27:7:** "The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet."

What matters is a person's heart, not their public image. Their heart is their true **nature**.

- **Proverbs 27:19:** "As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man."

Fools are identified when they speak, because their multitude of words reveals their foolish **nature**.

- **Ecclesiastes 5:3:** "For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words."

God used graphic language to describe the appalling **nature** of Israel's idolatry, and to convey how much He hated it.

- **Ezekiel 23:20:** "For she doted upon their paramours, whose flesh is as the flesh of asses, and whose issue is like the issue of horses."
- **Ezekiel 23:44:** "Yet they went in unto her, as they go in unto a woman that playeth the harlot: so went they in unto Aholah and unto Aholibah, the lewd women."

In order to communicate to the Jews the horrible **nature** of the coming judgment, God was going to take away something from Ezekiel that meant a great deal to him, but Ezekiel wasn't allowed to mourn over it.

- **Ezekiel 24:16, 18:** "Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down. ... So I spake unto the people in the morning: and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded."

The watchers (who appear to be supernatural beings) have the power to change the very **nature** of individuals.

- **Daniel 4:16-17:** "Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him. This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."

There are times when God judges idolatry by causing altars to

become abandoned and destroyed by **nature**.

- **Hosea 10:8:** "The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us."

Nature itself will respond when the Lord comes to this world.

- **Habakkuk 3:3, 10:** "God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. ... The mountains saw thee, and they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, and lifted up his hands on high."

It's impossible for someone who's unclean in God's sight to do something holy or give a holy gift, because that person's unclean **nature** infects whatever they touch.

- **Haggai 2:13-14:** "Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean. Then answered Haggai, and said, So is this people, and so is this nation before me, saith the LORD; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean."

God told Malachi that the Messiah "is", not "will be". The Messiah was already alive when God gave this prophecy to Malachi, which is evidence of His divine **nature**.

- **Malachi 3:2:** "But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a

refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:"

Those who are evil won't bear good fruit because it's against their **nature**.

- **Matthew 7:18:** "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit."

Those who are good won't bear evil fruit because it's against their **nature**.

- **Matthew 7:18:** "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit."

Those who have an evil heart can't speak good things. Instead they'll speak things that reflect the wicked **nature** of their heart.

- **Matthew 12:34:** "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

The words and actions of a person reveals the **nature** of their heart.

- **Matthew 12:35:** "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things."
- **Luke 6:45:** "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth

speaketh."

The passage of time reveals people's true **nature**.

- **Matthew 13:28-30:** "He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

Just as it takes a miracle for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, so it takes a miracle for a rich man to be saved. By **nature** both are impossible.

- **Matthew 19:24:** "And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

Times of affliction can be valuable because they reveal the true **nature** of a person's faith. (Those who reject the faith when suffering arises were never saved at all. Their faith was a fraud.)

- **Mark 4:17:** "And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended."

Comparing God's kingdom to things people are familiar with

can help them understand its **nature**.

- **Mark 4:30:** "And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?"

Judas hid his true evil **nature** from the rest of the disciples. (When Jesus said that one of them would betray Him, none of them suspected Judas.)

- **Mark 14:18-19:** "And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I?"

Genuine repentance will *always* bring forth the fruits of repentance. Although our works don't save us, they do reveal the **nature** of our heart.

- **Luke 3:8:** "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."

We can look at **nature** for examples of how God cares for His creation and provides for it.

- **Luke 12:27-28:** "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?"

Jesus wanted His disciples to understand the **nature** of His return so they wouldn't be deceived by liars.

- **Luke 17:23-24:** "And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day."

Jesus used the parable of the trees to explain the **nature** of the signs that He gave about His return.

- **Luke 21:29-31:** "And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand."

We can't hide our true **nature** from Jesus.

- **John 2:25:** "And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man."

Jesus doesn't want false converts. He confronts people with who He is so that the true **nature** of their is be revealed.

- **John 8:31-32:** "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Paul used the Moses and the prophets to teach the Jews about Jesus and the **nature** of God's kingdom. He tried to use things they already knew in order to persuade them.

- **Acts 28:23:** "And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening."

There are times when God punishes the wicked by giving them over to a wicked **nature**.

- **Romans 1:28-32:** "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

It's the **nature** of people to know God's law, even if they haven't heard it. Societies which have never heard the gospel have some of the law's teachings in their midst, which they keep.

- **Romans 2:14:** "For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these,

having not the law, are a law unto themselves:"

The sins of the wicked are caused by the sin **nature** that dwells within them.

- **Romans 7:17:** "Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me."

People aren't naturally good. Instead they're naturally evil, because they have a sin **nature** that keeps them from doing the things they want to do, and makes them do things that they don't want to do.

- **Romans 7:18-20:** "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me."

People's sin **nature** holds them captive to their sin. It wages war against their mind and overcomes them. (In other words, all those who aren't saved are slaves to sin.)

- **Romans 7:23:** "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."

One day the true **nature** of our work will be revealed.

- **1 Corinthians 3:13:** "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of

what sort it is."

Paul said that life belonged to the Corinthian church, due to its **nature** and relationship with Christ. (Christ promised His church everlasting life.)

- **1 Corinthians 3:22:** "Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your's;"

Paul said that the world belonged to the Corinthian church, due to its **nature** and relationship with Christ. (Christ promised that one day the meek will inherit the world.)

- **1 Corinthians 3:22:** "Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your's;"

Paul said that the apostles belonged to the Corinthian church, due to its **nature** and relationship with Christ. (God used the apostles to build His church.)

- **1 Corinthians 3:22:** "Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your's;"

When God made women out of men He, was establishing a fundamental principle about the **nature** of women.

- **1 Corinthians 11:8:** "For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man."

Paul taught that **nature** itself teaches that men shouldn't have long hair.

- **1 Corinthians 11:14:** "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?"

Nature itself teaches us that the resurrection exists. This can be seen in seeds (which are buried in the ground and then transform into a plant).

- **1 Corinthians 15:35-37:** "But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:"

God gave seeds whatever **nature** pleased Him. Some seeds turn into one plant, while other seeds turn into different plants.

- **1 Corinthians 15:38:** "But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body."

There's a fundamental difference in **nature** between who we are now, and who we will be after the resurrection. At this time we're of the earth and are earthy, but after the resurrection we'll be of heaven (and will be heavenly).

- **1 Corinthians 15:48-49:** "As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."

Although the face of Moses really did shine after he spent time with God on mount Sinai, there was a symbolic meaning behind it. Paul connected the glory of his face with the glory of the old covenant, and the temporary **nature** of that glory to the temporary nature of the old covenant.

- **2 Corinthians 3:7-8:** "But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?"

The Israelites are blind to the **nature** of the old covenant. There's a veil over it that they can't see through which prevents them from understanding the covenant of works (and how it points to the covenant of grace).

- **2 Corinthians 3:13-14:** "And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ."

God sent the law because of the sinful **nature** of man.

- **Galatians 3:19:** "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."

The cross of Christ is offensive to the world by its very **nature**. (The world loves the idea of salvation by works, and despises the teaching of salvation by grace.)

- **Galatians 5:11:** "And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased."

Before we were saved we had a sinful **nature**.

- **Ephesians 2:3:** "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

Although we're not saved by our works, they do reveal our true **nature** (whether we're saved or lost).

- **Ephesians 5:5-6:** "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."
- **Titus 1:16:** "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."

The **nature** of a Christian is completely opposite of the nature of a non-Christian.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:4-5:** "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye

are all the children of light, and the children of the day:
we are not of the night, nor of darkness."

The longsuffering **nature** of Christ can be clearly seen by the way He saves sinners (such as Paul, who persecuted the church).

- **1 Timothy 1:15-16:** "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."

Paul said he was the first example of the longsuffering **nature** of Jesus. He was the first persecutor of the faith to be saved.

- **1 Timothy 1:15-16:** "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."

When Paul wrote to Philemon, Demas was still considered to be a fellow laborer. (However, later in life Demas revealed his true **nature** and forsook Paul.)

- **Philemon 1:24:** "Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers."

Jesus took upon Himself the **nature** of mankind (not the

nature of angels). This was necessary in order for Him save us by taking upon Himself the punishment that we deserved for our sin. (Jesus had to be a human being in order to die for the sins of mankind.)

- **Hebrews 2:16-17:** "For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."

The **nature** of angels is different from the nature of mankind.

- **Hebrews 2:16:** "For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham."

The tongue can set the course of **nature** itself on fire.

- **James 3:6:** "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

Vines don't naturally grow figs. Instead they grow grapes, which reflects their **nature**.

- **James 3:12:** "Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh."

Fig trees don't naturally grow olives. Instead they grow figs, which reflects their **nature**.

- **James 3:12:** "Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh."

It's **natural** for believers to see Jesus as precious. It's also natural for unbelievers to see Him as offensive. This is because of the core natures of believers and unbelievers.

- **1 Peter 2:7-8:** "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."

The divine **nature** isn't one of lust and corruption.

- **2 Peter 1:4:** "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

The promise of Jesus is that we may partake of the divine **nature** (which is righteousness, not wickedness).

- **2 Peter 1:4:** "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

Pursuing faith, virtue, knowledge, self control, patience, godliness, kindness, and love is a way to make sure of our

salvation. This isn't because our works save us, but because our works reveal our true **nature**. (Those who are uninterested in faith and godliness aren't saved.)

- **2 Peter 1:5-7, 10:** "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ... Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:"

The church must be on guard against those in this world who try to deceive others about the **nature** of Jesus.

- **2 John 1:7:** "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

Those who deceive others about the **nature** of Christ are doing something evil. Those who aid them become partakers in those evil deeds.

- **2 John 1:10-11:** "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."