

Partakers of the Divine Nature

Introduction:

- A. Often when people do wrong, they blame it on human nature: e.g., "I'm just human"; "That's human nature."
 - B. Our nature is what we make it. - Ephesians 2:3; 2 Peter 1:4
 - C. If we are to be saved, we must "be partakers of the divine nature." - 2 Peter 1:2-11
 - D. How can we become partakers of the divine nature?
- I. What is the "divine nature"?
- A. Some elements of the divine nature are unconditional (acquired by birth). - Genesis 1:27; Hebrews 12:9
 - B. But by sin responsible people acquire the nature (character) of Satan. - Ephesians 2:1-3
 - C. But we must acquire the nature (character) of God. - Ephesians 4:22-24
- II. How do we become like God in character?
- A. Escape corruption. - 2 Peter 1:4 (5 steps to Christ)
 - 1. What is "corruption"? - 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 2:15-17
 - 2. How do we escape?
 - a. by the knowledge of God - 2 Peter 1:2-3
 - b. through the gospel - Romans 1:16
 - B. Give all diligence. - 2 Peter 1:5-7 (7 steps to heaven; the octave of a life of praise to God)
 - 1. faith (assumed) - Hebrews 11:6; 2 Corinthians 5:7
 - 2. virtue (moral excellence, moral courage) - Genesis 39
 - 3. knowledge - 1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14
 - 4. temperance (self-control, self-government, discipline) - 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
 - 5. patience (steadfastness, endurance) - James 5:11; Job ch's. 1-2
 - 6. godliness (reverence toward God, attitude which seeks to please God) - 1 Samuel 3:1-10
 - 7. brotherly kindness (warmhearted affection for the brethren) - Ephesians 4:32
 - 8. charity (love, active good will)
 - a. crowning point of our character - 1 Corinthians 13:13; Colossians 3:14
 - b. reflection of Father's character - Matthew 5:44-45
 - c. how exemplified - 1 John 5:3; 3:16-18
- Conclusion:
- A. What if we develop this character? - 2 Peter 1:8
 - B. What if we fail to do so? - 2 Peter 1:9
 - C. What should we do? - 2 Peter 1:10-11