

**Xenos Christian Fellowship
Christian Growth
Week 4 Homework**

Old Self vs. New Self

On pages 89 & 90 of Walking in Victory a chart appears comparing the mentality of the old self in Adam versus the new self in Christ. Here, we have reproduced it one column at a time. On the right, record how you feel about the statement and total up your responses.

Old Self (in Adam)	My Reactions
<u>Alienated from God</u> - Therefore, we think of our old self on a horizontal plane--me vs. my problems, others, circumstances, etc.	I find myself engrossed in my problems and circumstances a lot. (1=not really/ 5= You bet) 1 2 3 4 5
<u>Doomed to death</u> - Therefore, everything is temporary, and temporary things are valuable. We spend our time trying to acquire or hold onto temporary things like material wealth.	I'm struggling with materialism. I worry about money a lot, and I'm nervous about not making my financial goals. My giving is a little weak. 1 2 3 4 5
<u>Alone, with unmet needs</u> - Therefore, we look to others to meet the hunger of loneliness by loving us the right way. Much of our thought lives are spent trying to understand why others won't meet our needs, or how to make them meet our needs. In our pain, we pity ourselves and are often angry at God and others.	I think about others a lot, and many of my thoughts include a note of dissatisfaction. I want my spouse to change. 1 2 3 4 5
<u>Unclear sense of identity</u> (like the man in the bubble)- Therefore, we doubt our own acceptability, and spend time seeking acceptance and affirmation from other people who assure us we are an important person. We spend much of our thought lives fretting about what others think of us.	Yes, I want to be popular and well-liked. Sometimes this leads me into things I would prefer to avoid. I spend a good part of my income on clothes. I'm worried about what I see in the mirror. 1 2 3 4 5
<u>Guilty of sin</u> - We <i>feel</i> guilty because we <i>are</i> guilty. When our mind is set on the old self, we experience an abiding sense of shame that depresses and robs us of motivation. Our focus locks increasingly onto self, bringing distance into all our relationships.	I have been realizing some of my problems come from feelings of shame. I am depressed, and I spend much of my time thinking about myself. 1 2 3 4 5

Total score: _____

Now see how much you identify with the other column in the chart.

New Self (in Christ)	My Reactions
<p><u>Alive to God</u>- Therefore, we think of our new selves on both a horizontal and a vertical plane. Our interactions with others, our problems, circumstances, etc. are all considered in the light of how God is, or may be, working through them.</p>	<p>I always look at life in vertical perspective. I never worry because I always know God has me in his care. I'm content in all circumstances.</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p><u>Guaranteed eternal life</u>- Therefore, temporary things become only means to an end. Only things that are eternal have ultimate value (like God, the truth, and people). Our stewardship of material and natural things in this life is important, mainly because these will affect our future lives with God.</p>	<p>I don't care about money or possessions, only that whatever I have accomplishes spiritual goals. I love giving a large proportion of my income to God's work.</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p><u>In Union with Christ and with other Christians, our needs met fully in Christ</u> (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 1:3) Therefore, our focus is on how we can meet the needs of others. Instead of pitying ourselves, we find ourselves praising God for his provision.</p>	<p>I am other-centered most of the time. I am aware that I have problems, but I don't worry about them. I draw my relational needs directly from Christ daily, and I need nothing from others around me.</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p><u>Identity based on God's view of us</u>- Therefore, we become less concerned about what others think of us. We are able to leave the question of who we are behind, as a settled matter, and direct our thoughts outward, increasingly free from self-doubt and man-pleasing.</p>	<p>I really don't care what others think of me except to the extent it could influence my witness. I know who I am, and I don't have to prove it to others or myself. I'm confident, because I know God will work through me.</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p><u>Forgiven completely, dead to sin</u>- We are able to look away from sin, laying it aside at the cross of Christ. Our thought life is spent contemplating how we may accomplish spiritual goals, not on how we failed earlier.</p>	<p>I know I sin, but that isn't the main point. I'm able to resolve sin quickly and easily with God, and most of my time with him is spent on positive issues.</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p>

Total score: _____

What do you think is the significance of your score is higher in Chart #1 than Chart #2?

What is the significance if Chart #2 is higher than Chart #1?

"Sin *is* important, so much so that Christ died to forgive it. But the sad irony is that if we develop a sin-focus in our lives, we fall ever deeper into the grip of sin, like a man struggling in quicksand. This was Paul's fate in Romans 7:14-24 before he looked away from "that which I am doing" and onto Christ. The power to be set free from sin comes, not from dwelling on how bad it is, but by dwelling on the "things of the Spirit." (pg.101)

Do you agree with this? Why or why not?