

February 2019

Dear Friends,

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. (Rom. 7:23 KJV)

From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? (Jas. 4:1 KJV)

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; ¹² Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. (1 Pet. 2:11-12 KJV)

I came across this story a while ago.

An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego." He continued, "The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too." The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

It fascinated me to see how closely this resembled the verses in the New Testament represented above. There is no doubt that this war is going on in every person and needs to be waged with seriousness. In our time we need not go far to find the malice, hate and enmity generated by the evil wolf; the sin nature. The political rancor of our time is a convincing enough proof of this conflict. Rising levels of antisemitism, racism and selfishness of every form demonstrate that the world definitely feeds the wicked wolf. Even within Christendom we all too often hear language that does not reflect the new nature but rather reinforces the values of the old. We also know that we, by nature cannot and do not feed the new nature. That feeding can only take place by the Holy Spirit as Paul continues in Romans 7

O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? ²⁵ I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Rom. 7:24-8:1 KJV)

It is indeed time for us to feed the new nature by Word and Sacrament and to pray God's Spirit to bring renewal to this fallen world. As we have begun a new year may we seek such an epiphany in the name and image of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



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While this is an excellent strategy, it has proven a challenge for us to actually meet the minimum funding requirements. Until now, the fund has existed but remained unfunded. By the Lord's grace we have been blessed with a large contribution to fund the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. We would love to build on this generous contribution to grow our endowment into a major source of ongoing seminary support.

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