**Old Man**

[www.bibleone.net](http://www.bibleone.net)

Pat,

Regarding your inquiry, i.e. as follows:

There’s something I’m overlooking, but I’m confused about the ‘old man.’

When we’re spiritually saved, the ‘old man’ dies in us – he’s crucified.  Since the ‘old man’ is the ‘soulical man,’ it would seem our soul would die.

Previously, before dwelling on this, I thought that either the ‘old man’ didn’t die or if he did, was then made alive.  But that didn’t make sense.  I’ve thought for the longest that the ‘old man’ was still in us and was the one who sinned, not the new man in Christ.  Therefore I thought as we were ‘be being’ filled with the Holy Spirit, in an inverse proportion, the ‘old man’ was dying.  Dwelling in the Word was the main work to accomplish this filling.

Do we saved still have a soul?  It would seem we do since some of us are running the race for soul salvation.

Does my question make any sense?  I’ve spent a number of hours researching without finding the answer, or probably don’t recognize the answer.

I can only answer as I understand the concept of “*old man*” as Paul uses it in Scripture, e.g. as follows:

**Romans 6:5-14**

*For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection*, (**6**) *knowing this*, *that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with*, *that we should no longer be slaves of sin*. (**7**) *For he who has died has been freed from sin*. (**8**) *Now if we died with Christ*, *we believe that we shall also live with Him*, (**9***) knowing that Christ*, *having been raised from the dead*, *dies no more*. *Death no longer has dominion over Him*. (**10**) *For the death that He died*, *He died to sin once for all*; *but the life that He lives*, *He lives to God*. (**11**) *Likewise you also*, *reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin*, *but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord*. (**12**) *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body*, *that you should obey it in its lusts*. (**13**) *And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin*, *but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead*, *and your members as instruments of righteousness to God*. (**14**) *For sin shall not have dominion over you*, *for you are not under law but under grace*.

(Essentially, Paul’s argument relevant to the “old man” and “his” affect upon corporeal men and women [and in this case, specifically the Christian person] extends through the middle of **Romans**, chapter **8**)

**Ephesians 4:20-24**

*But you have not so learned Christ*, (**21**) *if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him*, *as the truth is in Jesus*: (**22**) *that you put off*, *concerning your former conduct*, *the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts*, (**23**) *and be renewed in the spirit of your mind*, (**24**) *and that you put on the new man which was created according to God*, *in true righteousness and holiness*.

**Colossians 3:8-10**

*But now you yourselves are to put off all these*: *anger*, *wrath*, *malice*, *blasphemy*, *filthy language out of your mouth*. (**9**) *Do not lie to one another*, s*ince you have put off the old man with his deeds*, (**10**) *and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him*.

The concept of and the dealing with the “*old man*” are in fact relevant to soul-salvation; but, to equate “*old man*” with “soulical man” may be somewhat incorrect; although, I do agree that the objective (purpose) of the “*old man*” is to produce a non-spiritual influence and life within a person.

Part of the difficulty is in the understanding of the soul-component of man. There is little difficulty in comprehending the body-component of man, since it is tangible and touchable every waking moment of one’s life.

As for the spirit-component of man, it is my belief that this aspect of man is what totally died within man when he sinned soon after his creation (**Genesis 2:16**, **17**). It is this component of man that allows connectivity (union, if you please) with God. From Adam onward man has been born with a dead spirit, a component that can only be revitalized (“*born from above*”) upon one’s *faith in Christ* (**John 3:7**, **16**); but, when resuscitated, can never more die.

Then there is the soul-component of man, man being a tripartite being (**1 Thessalonians 5:23**; **Hebrews 4:12**). And frankly, I believe it is quite difficult for man to adequately understand the composition of the soul. It has been stated that this aspect of man is the seat of self-consciousness, mentality, volition, emotion, and conscience (norms and standards). To be sure, the soul encompasses these features, for it is the soul of man that allows connectivity with the non-spiritual world. In another study, I have stated the following regarding the soul-component of man.

On the other hand, the soul is the identity of the person, the one who resides in the package, i.e., the body. It is the life-giving principle, which actually resides in the blood (**Leviticus 17:11**; cf. **Genesis 9:4**). The soul comprises the intellectual and emotional assets of one’s identity, without which, the body cannot properly function. It is the body’s engine, and, its identity. In brief, a person cannot meaningfully exist without the union of body and soul; nor, for that matter, can any non-human (e.g., animal) so exist without the same. Christ pointed out the difference between these two distinct elements when He said in **Matthew 10:28**, “*And fear not them which kill the body*, *but are not able to kill the soul*: *but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell*.”

Having offered this explanation, it must be stated that this account may be somewhat lacking as to the complexity and totality of not only the differences between body and soul, but also as to their connectivity. As one views the various passages of Scripture that apply to these two components of God’s air-breathing creatures, one can only be certain that they do exist, have their separate function, and transition separately at death, which is seen in the death of Christ on the cross of Calvary.

In any case, I am not certain that any man can fully appreciate and understand the complexity of God’s crowning creative act, i.e., man, just as man is totally unable to fully appreciate and understand the existence and nature of God. Still, man is to accept both by faith, for this is the only avenue established for man that will lead him to the only constructively divine destination for man.

It is my belief that when Paul uses the designation, “*old man*,” as to an element of man, he uses it as a synonym for the “sin nature,” which dominates man in the “lost state” (non-Christian), but which can be overcome by man in the “saved state” (Christian). And when he refers to the “*old man*” as having been crucified with Christ (**Romans 6:6**), he is referring to the *sin nature*’*s ability to dominate a person*, a power that no longer exists *unless* (and this is *key*) the person allows it — this power was crucified/terminated on the cross, meaning that once a person accepts Christ in faith, he is no longer under the unyielding thumb of the sin nature, its dominance.

In addition to the designation “*old man*,” Paul uses the word “*sin*,” “*flesh*,” and “*law*” throughout his discourse in chapters **6** through **8** of the book of **Romans**, to refer to and to explain this force, to clarify that although we as Christians were once dominated by this force toward evil, we are to *now* realize that it has been put to death (may now be rendered inoperable “by faith”) on the cross of Christ, a condition that *now*, as Christians, we may take advantage of “by faith” throughout our temporal life (**Romans 6:6b**, **7**, **12**, **14**; **7:5**, **6**; **8:1**, **2**, **12**, **13**) to lead a holy life, to the saving of our souls.

This theme continues throughout the New Testament, as you may also see in some of his other epistles, e.g., **Ephesians** and **Colossians** (above). Bottom line, as Christians we are no longer under the rule of our old nature, a nature that was defeated at the cross, unless, we so choose to be.

Daily, we have a choice to make. We may choose to put on the “*old man*” and be dominated by the force of evil; or, we may choose to put on the “*new man*” and be led in righteousness. When we were without Christ, we had no choice. As Christians, God always gives us this choice.

*For the wages of sin is death*, *but the gift of God is eternal* [age-lasting] *life in Christ Jesus our Lord*. (**Romans 6:23**)

(You may wish to read my commentary on this verse in the section, “Bible Facts Little Understood by Christians” on my website, www.bibleone.net)

Well Pat, I hope some of this helps you in your quest for an answer to your question. The subject is rich but most valuable to a life for Christ. As I do on many of my replies regarding spiritual matters, I also send a copy to Arlen L. Chitwood. Should he wish to correct me or clarify an issue (which I always appreciate) regarding this subject, I will be certain to pass his comments on to you.

Charles