



## NATURAL-BORN SLAVES

Slavery is a socio-economic system under which certain persons – known as slaves – are deprived of personal freedom and compelled to work. Slaves are held against their will from the time of their capture, purchase, or birth, and are deprived of the right to leave, to refuse to work, or to receive compensation in return for their labor.

Ancient warfare often resulted in slavery for prisoners and their families, who were either killed, ransomed or sold as slaves. Captives were often considered the property of those who captured them and were looked upon as a prize of war. Most slaves were born into that status because their parents were slaves. They were natural-born slaves.

Did you know that all of us are natural-born slaves? Jesus said, *“I assure you that everyone who sins is a slave of sin.”* (John 8:34 NLT) Our parents were slaves of sin and so we were born to slavery. We are in bondage to sin by birth. We had no choice in being born a sinner. The mere fact that we were born to human parents makes us slaves of sin.

We inherited our “sinning” ability from Adam. We are sinners because of what’s been passed to us in our DNA make-up. We are sinners because of the way we were conceived. I was the fruit of the union of two sinners. From the moment of conception, I could not be anything else but a sinner because my parents were sinners. Since I was born to sinners, they passed on to me their sinful nature. That sinful nature causes me to sin. Sin is normal or natural to me. I don’t have to learn how to sin, it comes naturally to me.

How are we set free from sin slavery? Our old nature cannot really be set free, it is too deeply mired in sin (by inheritance, by birth, by nature, and by bondage). So, instead of setting our old nature free, God gives us a new nature. We are reborn with a new spirit. We have nothing that God can improve or reform, so we can be set free. Human nature is so sold to sin that we could not appreciate true freedom, even if God tried to give it to us. In our old nature, we would not know what to do with freedom. All we have always known is slavery. So, God gives the new believer a new spirit. This new spirit knows freedom because it’s the Holy Spirit who gave it to us. The nature that was passed on to us by our parents is in bondage. The spirit that the Holy Spirit births in us was made to live only in liberty.

When you become a new person, it does not mean that your sinful nature is gone. What is gone is your life where you only had one nature and it is a slave of sin. Now you have another nature, and it is your new spiritual nature. You are now able to enjoy true

freedom because of this new spirit. This new spirit is responsive to the Holy Spirit. In your old life, you were a slave. No matter what you did, your old nature remained a slave to sin. In your new life, you can choose between slavery and freedom, between the old nature and the new spirit.

Anyone who sins is also in bondage to the law. God gave the law to define sin for sinners because sin is so natural to sinners that they don’t even realize how much they are sinning. The old nature cannot really obey God’s law, obedience is not natural to it. So the old nature just focuses on the letter of the law – outward, formal religion without a desire for a relationship with God. Slaves cannot be intimate with their masters because their relationship is defined by obligation and fear.

Your new nature obeys God in freedom, not out of fear and obligation. The law was not given for your new spirit which the Holy Spirit released to you when you were born again. The law is for slaves. True obedience can only be offered by a free soul. A slave obeys because he has no choice. A free person obeys because he wants to.

Once you’re born again, you now can choose between two natures, the old sinful nature or the new spiritual nature. You are free not to choose your old nature now. Regardless of how many times you have failed God in the past, He has set you free, so you don’t have to be controlled by your old nature. Your real choice now is not between right and wrong, but between two competing natures.

You can choose either to be controlled by your old sinful nature or be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Being controlled by your old nature is slavery – that has not changed – it will always be like that. Being controlled by the Holy Spirit is freedom from sin. The Spirit’s control is not domineering and enslaving but loving and gracious. Under the slavery of sin, you have no choice but to sin. Under the Holy Spirit, you are free to choose Him or your old self. Why? Because God is love and He wants only freely-given worship and love-motivated service.

Natural-born slaves don’t have the freedom to serve another master. And since slaves earn no pay, they will never be able to save enough money to purchase their freedom. Their only way out of slavery is for someone to purchase their freedom. Otherwise, they could never be free.

When you believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior and Lord, something happens – you are reborn a free person. You are given a new spirit who is free from slavery to sin. Henceforth, you no longer have to serve sin. You have a new master. You call Him “Lord.” He bought you to set you free.