

Nature vs. Spirit

A Two-Minute Thought by Eric

Have you ever stopped to think about the difference between “Human Nature” and “Human Spirit”? One has a decidedly negative impression, whereas the other is very positive.

Whenever you hear someone talk about Human Nature, it’s usually in response to something bad. For example, you might hear someone say that having sex before marriage is just “human nature”. Or that “survival of the fittest” is just “human nature”. It implies a natural instinct that leads us to behave in a way that does not align with how the Bible tells us we should live. Human Nature dictates what is the worst in us – the selfish, self-serving, all-about-me mentality. Instant gratification, despite the consequences. This is the sinful side of man and is so often used as an excuse for undesirable behavior. Do you think this type of mentality pleases God?

But then there is Human Spirit. When you hear about Human Spirit, it is often embedded in a story about bravery, selflessness, courage, and basically putting another before yourself in thought, deed, safety, or what have you. For example, to read a story about 9/11 where so many firefighters put their lives on the line so others may live. Relentlessly pursuing hope in hopelessness, strength in weakness, or simply believing in someone. It is Human Spirit that brings out the best in us.

I don’t know where the term “Human Spirit” came from, but I can imagine that observers of Jesus back in the day could have coined that phrase. Jesus was certainly human AND filled with the Holy Spirit. And by that, “Human Spirit” could easily be defined as the antithesis of Human Nature.

So, what could be better than having the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of God, who gave up His Son to die so we could live – living inside of us, guiding us in everything?