

Partakers of the Divine Nature

I. Introduction

- A. The Holy Spirit through Peter speaks about the blessing of being able to become “partakers of the divine nature.” Consider some things Scripture teaches related to this theme.
2 Peter 1:2-4

II. “The Divine Nature”

- A. The word translated “nature” is used in different ways in Scripture. In the context of 2 Peter 1, the point is that as a result of what God has done for us, we have the opportunity to escape the corruption that is in the world and become companions of *God’s* nature by emulating His *character*. **2 Peter 1:4**
- B. While some characteristics of God are unique to Deity (cf. **Prov. 15:3**), there are several traits applied to God that we should pursue *ourselves*. The one who does so changes his or her “nature” to be like God instead of being like the world. This is both a blessing and a *duty*. **Ephesians 4:22-24**

III. Thinking Like God

- A. As Ephesians 4 alludes to, the transformation process that leads one to become a partaker of the divine nature begins with a *renewing of the mind*. This renewal of the mind involves allowing God’s revealed will to get into our hearts so that we see things as He describes them, instead of seeing things as the world does. In this sense, God through His Word trains us to *think like Him*. **Ephesians 4:23; Romans 12:2a**
- B. While God has not revealed to us nearly everything He knows, that which *has* been revealed is sufficient for us to understand what His will is for us. What God has revealed is sufficient for us to *know* what is evil and what is good, and to develop the *abhorrence* He has for evil and the *love* He has for good.
Romans 12:2b; 12:9

IV. Righteous and Holy Like God

- A. While being partakers of the divine nature involves *thinking* like God in certain ways, it also involves *being* like God. For instance, just as God is *righteous*, He allows *us* to be declared righteous through His Son. This, again, is cause for *gratitude*, but also a call to *action*. **Ephesians 4:24; Matthew 5:6**
- B. We also have the opportunity and duty to become *holy*, just as God is holy. **Ephesians 4:24; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2 Peter 1:4-7**

V. Love Like God

- A. The holy, righteous “new life” we are able to have in Christ is motivated by *love*. This is a key characteristic of God that we must emulate as a part of sharing in the divine nature. **1 John 4:7-8, 19**
- B. Partaking of the divine nature in this area will lead us to have love for lost souls as God does. **Luke 15:1-2ff**
- C. Moreover, it will lead us to have the kind, tenderhearted, forgiving attitude that emulates the love of God.
Ephesians 4:32

VI. Conclusion

- A. Part of God’s character and nature is beyond our comprehension, and some of His traits are unique to Deity. Yet, there is much that is true of God that can (and should) be true of us as well. Learning from our Teacher should lead to becoming like our Teacher. It is a wonderful blessing to have this opportunity, but also cause for self-examination and diligent action in order that we may truly be partaking of the divine nature. **2 Peter 1:4**