

Are You Henry Or Sam?

by David McWilliams

The following story is a familiar one to many children in our congregation, “*The Secret of Henry and Sam*” by Neil W. Rabens.

The Story

My story has a secret, and just to make it fun, I won't tell you what it is until I'm nearly done.

Now, Henry was the kind of boy who always tried to please, but Sam was very, very bad. He'd fight and brag and tease.

Because of Henry's pleasant smile, he's fun to be around. While Sam is very seldom seen without a crabby frown.

Henry always does his work before he thinks of play. Sam will always put it off and try to sneak away.

You can count on Henry to take care of a pet. Sam thinks only of himself and often will forget.

If you play games with Henry, you know he'll never cheat. But Sam will throw a tantrum whenever he's been beat.

When Henry comes in from outdoors, He puts his things away. Sam just throws his anywhere and leaves them there to stay.

Henry's always very kind to smaller girls and boys. While Sam will often tease them and take away their toys.

Henry's nice and quiet in church, he never makes a sound. Sam will squirm and wiggle and move his feet around.

Now, here's my little secret, friends. Do you know who I am? Well, sometimes I am Henry, and sometimes I am Sam!

But if I talk to God and ask for help each day, Henry's sure to grow and grow while Sam will fade away!

The Application

For grownups who wish that their “Sam” would fade away, consider the following passages.

Galatians 5:16-17 *“Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”*

Ephesians 4:20-24 *“But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*