

Programs 25 & 26

Spirit/Soul Differences

1Thes. 5:23—"Sanctify spirit, soul and body.

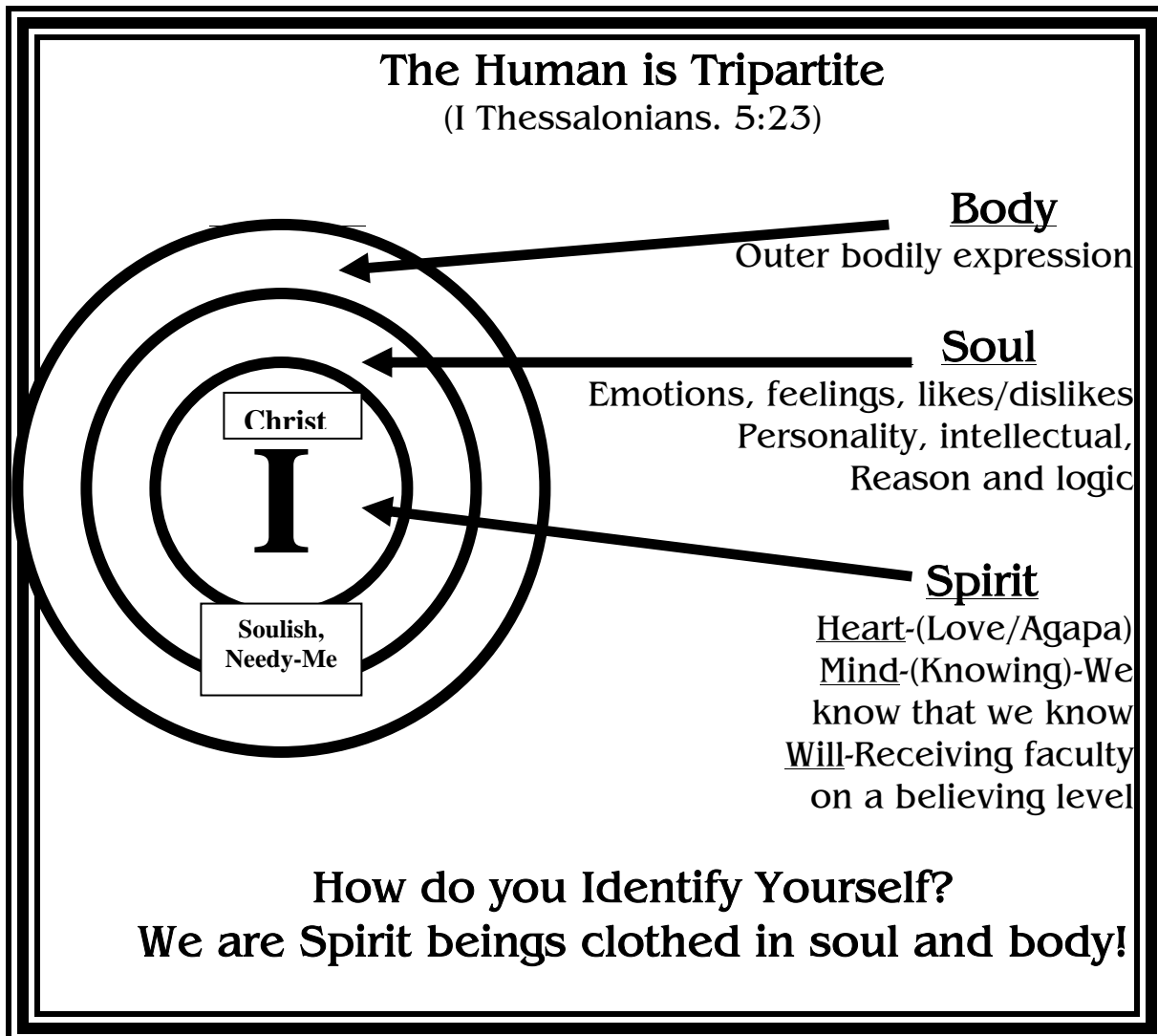
Matt. 11:28-29—"There is a rest for our souls."

Heb. 4:13—"Sabbath rest for the people of God."

Heb. 4:13—"Dividing soul from Spirit, joints and marrow, thoughts and intents of heart."

Rom. 7:25—"I myself with my mind am serving the law of God."

Matt. 26:39—"Not my will, but thine."



The human being is God's top created being, he is marvelously constructed, created in God's image, and he is wonderfully gifted. But like we have previously stated, man fell into sin, darkness, and blindness. Therefore, man doesn't understand himself.

Man is tripartite, with three levels of existence. The three circles above are only a crude picture of mankind. Man is much more complex than this can illustrate. But it does give us some understanding about man.

I Thes. 5:23 says, "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." So man is a spirit, and a soul and a body. Our spirit is our "I," our soul is how we express that "I." It is what we think—our logic and reasonings; how we feel emotionally—our likes and dislikes; and our particular personality. Our body is obviously the outer expression of soul and spirit.

Let's look again at our spirit—we are created in God's image as a spirit being. We are spirit beings, wrapped in fleshly soul and body clothing. Most of us don't even know that we are a spirit being. We most of the time think of ourselves as our souls. How I feel is who I am.? How I think is who I am, and so on.

Some of us identify ourselves as my body: "I am my body"—my appearance is who I am. Either I am beautiful and that is who I am, or I am average, or I am ugly and that is who I am. I am my hair, my eyes, my skin, my figure, my physique, my legs, my face, etc. I am what I wear whether designer clothes or Wal-Mart specials. If I am well, physically, then that is who I am, or if I am sick, that is who I am. I think that I am my physical endeavors and accomplishments—swimmer, golfer, dancer etc.

Then most of us draw my identity from the soul realm. "I am how I feel—I am depressed, so that is who I am. I am feeling happy, so therefore I am happy today. I am my emotions. One day, I'm high, the next day I'm low. When I am high, then I am Spiritual, but when I am low I am not so Spiritual. I am my likes or my dislikes. This soul-life is the treadmill life. I liken it the gerbil's wheel—always spinning but never getting anywhere.

The way I mentally think is who I am—whether I have an IQ of 160 or 70, my intellect is me. My thoughts, my ideas, my understanding and my imaginations are who I am. I am smart, or average, or I am just plain stupid. I maser by my own thought processes, or I can't seem to figure life out. Either way I am my intellect.

I may identify myself with my personality—I am my personality type, I am even tempered, I am short fused, I am shy, I am fiery, I am quiet, I am talkative. I am my personality.

Then we can draw our identity from our possessions. "I am my possessions, my money, my things, and my family bloodline. I am my status in life. I am successful, or I am a failure. My car, my house, or boat or my job security makes me who I am.

Maybe, my security and identity comes from where I attend church. —I say, I am charismatic, I am a Baptist, I am from the Vineyard, I am a Presbyterian, a Catholic, or I am non-denominational. Therefore, I am my Spiritual affiliation.

I might think that who I am is what I accomplish and perform spiritually, or I am my ministry. I get inner brownie points from doing good works. I identity myself with my good works, I even boast about them.

We could identify ourselves with my relationships—my husband, my wife, or my children. "What I could not accomplish myself, I will do it through my children. I have validity because my husband is successful, or I am not valid because my wife is fat and not so beautiful. My children are smart, so I identity myself as a good parent. My children

have embarrassed me, so therefore I am not a good parent. My security and confidence is drawn from my family life.”

We might even identify ourselves with my sins—I am Gay, I am an alcoholic, I am an addict, I am a liar, I am a lustful, I am hateful, or “I am a carnal person sold under sin,” as Paul says. The truth is: we may commit sins, and we must not be in denial, but my sins are not who I am. They might be what I am doing but they are not who I am.

We might think that we are our profession; “what I do for a living is who I am. I am a teacher, I am a judge, I am a doctor, I am an electrician, I am a stay-at-home mother, I am a janitor, I am a computer expert, I am an unemployed failure, I am a school drop out, I am a Harvard graduate, I am a nurse, I am a pilot, etc. I draw my identity from my work place, or from my nationality—I am a Ford worker, I am an American, I live in a mobile home, or I live in a large house.”

No matter what you do or where you live, these criteria *DO NOT DEFINE WHO YOU ARE*. When we live by this false identity and draw our security from this realm, we are always needy, always dissatisfied, and self-centered, because nothing is ever enough to satisfy us. We are left with an insatiable hunger, ...ever looking for fullness, and completeness, but never finding it.

We live by self-effort and self-improvement, and are striving to improve either ourselves, or the people around us. We are always trying to fix, change, or re-arrange ourselves, or our world. We are in lack and need and are always trying to be in control of our lives, or the lives of others. Life eludes us, people fail us, and we are miserable.

As long as we falsely think that we are our “souls,” then our independent soul-life (which is “The sin that dwells in us” in Romans 7) reigns in us and dominates us. This false life is Satan reigning in our souls and having dominion over us. This lie keeps us in bondage to a phantom-separated-independent-self. When this phantom-I (*the self-perceived “me”*) is rightly seen and identified as Satan, the true culprit, then we can wield the sword of faith, by the authority of the cross, and trust Christ who has already set us free from Satan’s control. Now, we are on the road to freedom with the resurrected Spirit life of Christ in us. We “put on Christ,” our new nature, shedding the old phantom-I and consider that false self dead, buried, and resurrected with Christ.

Our bodies and our souls are precious and wonderfully God given as the means for expressing the Spirit in a myriad of various forms, *BUT OUR SOULS AND OUR BODIES ARE NOT WHO WE ARE*. I can never say that I am my bodily appetite, or soulish desires. And if I walk in this realm or identify my soul and body as me, then I, as the Bible promises, “shall be condemned and I shall fulfill the lust of the flesh” because I am having confidence in my flesh, instead of the real me, which is Christ in me. But if I dare to identify myself and walk as a Spirit Being united to Christ and therefore clothed in precious soul and body as only a means of expressing the Spirit, then as the Bible promises, “We shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

Jesus said, unless you loose your independent soulish life, you cannot find your true Spirit-life as Christ. And Paul testifies of this stripping of his outer identity when he said that he “suffered the loss of all things, in order that he might win Christ.” He says that he has no confidence in his flesh appearances, accomplishments, or status in life. When he did have confidence in flesh, he was living under the bondage of Satan’s performance based acceptance and law bound self-effort.

We are Spirit beings and as Spirit beings we, Christians are joined to Christ, who is our life and the very power source that we live by. We are Christ in our human forms and that is my (our) true Spiritual identity. I am the actual body of Christ and my spirit is married to HIS Spirit so we are one. Actually I don't even identify myself as spirit, because my identity is not the vessel, my identity is the one living in the vessel. There is no "ME" that is a vessel.

When I identify myself as a human spirit joined to, and indwelt with the Holy Spirit, I can dare claim all that Jesus is as me. "I am peace, because the Prince of Peace is the real me." "I am righteous, because HIS righteous is MY righteousness." "I am power because the resurrection power of the universe is my life." I am holy, because the Holy Spirit is my life." "I am love, because, Jesus is love poured out to others." "I am a co-heir with Jesus, because I have inherited Him and all that he is. I am the bride, for He is my new husband." "I am accepted in the beloved, I am chosen, I am justified, I am sanctified, I am glorified, I am a New Creation, I am a king and a priest, I have royal blood, I am a true Israelite, a true Jew, I am a priest after the order of Melchizedek" all because I have the glorified Lord Jesus living in me, and is the real me. I am a new species of being, and a new humanity.

I have access and rights to the Throne Room "I can ask anything in His name and He will give it to me and it *shall* be done." "I can say unto any mountain in my life, 'Be Thou Removed,' and it shall obey me." I am now one with God who creatively "calls the things that are not as though they were." All power in heaven and earth has been given unto me, for "I live by the faith of the Son of God."

My soul and body are anointed by the Holy Spirit and express the fruit of the Holy Spirit. My precious humanity is rightly used in righteousness. My humanity comes alive eternally and is rightly accepted and appreciated. I have no condemnation. "I have overcome the evil one" and "the evil one touches me not." I have special Spiritual gifts, and I have all power, authority, and dominion in heaven and earth, and "I have all sufficiency for all things."

So, now is your identity, body, soul or is it spirit? No contest, right? As Spirit beings, we take by faith, which is our royal capacity as choosing spirit being, all that Jesus is as me. Faith eventually dissolves into knowing, and settles into final fixation. Then, I Corinthians 13, the Love chapter, burst into being as a living reality lived out in us.

Now let us define what the human spirit is. First I must reiterate this one point again, We humans are derivative beings, therefore we never never having a life of our own, we are always joined to another deity Spirit. So as we describe our spirit's to you, remember we are saying that the human being, made in the image of God, is simply the neutral female receiver needing a male producer to be joined to.

The human spirit is desire/love. We either love the world and our own life through Satan, or we love and desire God our Father, through Christ. But we humans must love/desire in order to be human made in God's image. In Christ, my desires are Christ's desires, my loves are Christ's love nature in me.

As created persons we; will/choose or receive/believe in our spirits. Many teachers have taught that we humans will/choose in our souls. I take issue with that. We humans are spirit beings wrapped in soulish personality, and bodily flesh. If I choose from my soul, I am choosing from my fleshly personality and I would never have a spirit knowing

because my choice would be based on my fickle flesh. Even Jesus said to his sleepy disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Your spirit is willing, but your flesh is weak." Weak soulish flesh could never make a solid spirit choice. Ask yourself, "Did I receive Christ from my soul, or from spirit? The answer is obvious, from your spirit. Receiving is the act of willing or choosing. That is what separates us from the animal kingdom that don't have spirits, therefore they could never make a eternal spirit choice. They are two dimensional soul/body beings, and not tripartite.

As created persons we; know in our spirits. "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?" (I Cor. 2:11) What we love or desire, we choose by faith, and know, that we know. How can you explain knowing? You can't, we just know that we know. We believe that we are saved, by faith. But soon our belief dissolves into knowing and that is s/Spirit knowing. Once you know a thing, you are one with it, and nothing can take it away from you.

Now let us examine our soul's. Our soul's are our particular personalities, our thinking i.e. our reason and logic, and our emotions which are up one day and down the next. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that the Word of God is a two-edged sword cutting asunder soul, from spirit. Before we can have a steadily walk in the Spirit, we must know the difference between the two. The Hebrew passage gives us two clear examples of soul and spirit. It says that the sword divides between "the joints and marrow, and the thoughts and intents of the heart." Think about it—the marrow of a bone is where the life is, while the joint is flexible, moving to and fro. The spirit is the marrow, and the joint is the soul. Next we see that the sword divides between the thoughts, and intent of heart. Thoughts can be all over the place, and are, but the intent of heart is fixed in God. Human thoughts come from our soul, while the intent of our heart is solidly from spirit.

As we said in the beginning of this chart, "let us identify ourselves as spirit being indwelt by The Holy Spirit. This is our true spirit-self. However spirits beings need means of manifestation. Our soul personalities, and fleshly bodies provide that vessel of manifestation.

Then lastly, "our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit" Your body doesn't belong to you, it belongs to God, for "you are bought with a price." Honor it, care for it, and be satisfied with it, for God is pleased to dwell therein.