

SERMON NOTES - The 3 Parts of Man #1

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

1Th 5:23 NKJV — "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

You are a 3 part being - Body, Soul and Spirit - but it is important that we understand this correctly, and that we act correctly regarding these 3 parts.

There are also several other terms used in the Bible to describe and to explain these 3 parts, and they can be confusing if we don't study them closely:

1. **Heart** (all that is within us / equivalent to "inward man") - in the Bible the heart feels (Ps 4:7), thinks (Pro 23:7), and decides (Dan 1:8)
Rom 10:9-10 NKJV - "9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your **heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the **heart** one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."
1Sa 16:7 NKJV - "7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the **heart**.""
Also see Luk 5:22; Rom 1:21; Gen 42:28; Exo 4:14; Lev 19:17; Neh 2:2; Ps 4:7; Mat 22:37; Gen 6:5; 1Ki 8:17; Zec 7:10; 1Ki 8:61; 2Co 9:7;
2. The **Flesh** (vs the **Spirit**) - Galatians 5:16-26; Romans 8:1-14; 1 Peter 2:11; Romans 7:5-25; Matthew 26:41; Galatians 6:8; John 3:6; Romans 13:14; John 6:63
3. **Old man** vs **New man** - **Eph 4:22-24** NKJV - "22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."
(See also Ro 6:6; Col 3:9-10)
4. **Outward man** vs **Inward man** - **2Co 4:16-18** NKJV - "16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."
(See also Ro 7:22; Eph 3:16)
5. **Natural man** vs **Spiritual man**, **Carnal** (fleshly) **man** vs **Spiritual man** & "mere" men -
1 Cor 2:14-15; 1Co 3:1-3; Ro 8:1-14;

1Co 2:14-16 NKJV - "14 But the **natural** man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is **spiritual** judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ."

1Co 3:1-3 NKJV - "1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual** people but as to **carnal**, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still **carnal**. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not **carnal** and behaving like **mere men**?"

Rom 7:23 NKJV - "23 But I see another **law** in my **members**, warring against the **law of my mind**, and bringing me into captivity to the **law of sin which is in my members**."

Rom 8:1-2, 5-9 NKJV - "1 There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the **flesh**, but according to the **Spirit**. 2 For the **law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** has made me free from the **law of sin and death**. ... 5 For those

who live according to the **flesh set their minds** on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the **Spirit**, the things of the Spirit. 6 For **to be carnally minded is death**, but **to be spiritually minded is life and peace**. 7 Because the **carnal mind is enmity against God**; for it is **not subject to the law of God**, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh **cannot please God**. 9 But **you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit**, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now **if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.**"

Also see:

Phi 2:4 NKJV - "4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

CONCLUSION:

- Know who you are in Christ, and the role and importance of your Soul (mind), Spirit, and body (flesh)
- Set your mind on the Spirit and live in the Spirit - the result is life and peace

Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.