

SERMON NOTES - The 3 Parts of Man #2

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."

RECAP

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.

- Body = World consciousness
- Soul = Self consciousness
- Spirit = God consciousness

Illustration - a **map** app without borders, labels and street names, a **photo** in Black & White changed to colour using Red, Blue, Green filters.

Gen 2:7 NKJV - "7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

There are several other terms used in the Bible to describe parts or all of this 3-fold reality:

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)
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; Psa 4:7; Mat 22:37; Gen 6:5; 1Ki 8:17; Zec 7:10; 1Ki 8:61; 2Co 9:7;
2. **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)
3. **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)
4. **Natural man vs Spiritual man**, (also includes "**Carnal**" (fleshly) **man** & "mere" men) - **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**?" See also **Jude 1:19** NKJV — These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

THIS WEEK:

4 Terms / ideas / concepts we need to learn more about and understand fully:

1. The "**Flesh**" (also called "**carnal**"), "**My Members**", "**My Body**"
2. **Spirit**, spiritual - that which relates to God
3. "**me**", "**myself**", "**I**", my "**Mind**", the "**inward man**"
4. **Law** (of God - Moses' law), **Law** of my **mind**, **law** of **sin** (& death) in my members, **law** of the **Spirit of life**

Romans 7:5, 14, 18, 22-25 NKJV — For when we were **in the flesh**, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our **members** to bear fruit to death.

14 For we know that the law is **spiritual**, but **I** am **carnal**, sold under sin.

18 For I know that **in me** (that is, **in my flesh**) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with **me**, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

22-25 - For **I** delight in the **law of God** according to the **inward man**.

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**.

24- O wretched man that **I am**! Who will deliver me from this **body** of death?

25- I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the **mind I myself** serve the **law** of God, but with the **flesh** the **law** of sin.

Rom 8:2, 5-14 NKJV - " 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**."

10 And if Christ is in you, the **body** is dead because of sin, but the **Spirit** is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your **mortal bodies** through His Spirit who dwells in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the **flesh**, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the **Spirit** you put to **death** the **deeds** of the **body**, you will **live**. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

HOW TO SET YOUR MIND ON THE SPIRIT:

1. Focus on God's words: Jhn 6:63 NKJV - "63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."

2. Focus on His Glory in Worship: 2 Co 3:17-18 NKJV - "17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

3. Pray in the Spirit: Jde 1:19-21 NKJV - "19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." (see also 1 Cor 14:14-15 & Rom 8:26-27)

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.