



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

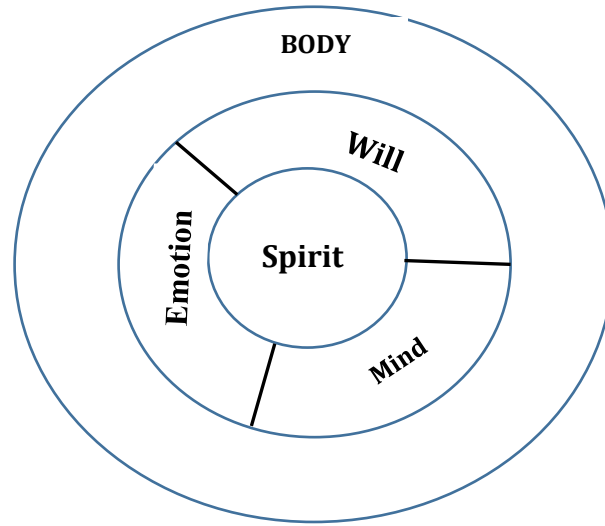
“Death, Glorification, Unification: What happens to our Body, Soul and Spirit?”

Lesson 3 – Body, Soul and Spirit

February 26, 2017

I. Lesson Starters:

Do you believe that man is a 3 part being or a 2 part being? What is the difference between our soul and spirit? Do you believe we have both a soul and spirit? What part of us makes it possible for us to communicate with God? Have you ever thought of the differences between soul and spirit and where sinful thoughts and ideas originate? Why do we do what we do, what drives it; body soul or spirit?



II. Man Created in God's Image- 3 Part Being

Man is a triune being because he is created in the image of God.

- “God said, Let us make man in Our image” ([Genesis 1:26](#))
 - We know that God is a Trinity. The Holy Trinity is clearly set forth in “The grace of the Lord Jesus *Christ*, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen” ([2 Corinthians 13:14](#)).
 - Jesus himself said: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” ([Matthew 28:19](#))
 - Created in the image of God, man is likewise a trinity. He has a spiritual nature that is separate and distinct from the body in which it dwells.

The ‘Body’ is shown as touching the Material world through the senses:

- Sight, Smell, Hearing, Taste, Touch

The ‘Soul’ is:

- Imagination, Conscience, Memory, Reason, Affections

The “Spirit” receives impressions of outward and material things through the soul:

- Spiritual faculties are Faith, Hope, Reverence, Prayer, Worship

1 Thessalonians 5:19-23

19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil. 23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Hebrews 4:12-13

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

When God created His human beings, He created us with both tangible and intangible elements. The tangible is the physical body—bones, organs, cells, etc.—which God designed to last just as long as there was physical life in us. It is the "tent" in which the intangible parts of us dwell. The intangible aspects of humans are those which are: soul, spirit, intellect, will, conscience, emotions, and personality, and God designed these to exist beyond the physical. It is these parts of humanity that enable us to relate to God by either embracing Him in worship and obedience, or by rejecting Him in pride and ignorance.

III. The Soul

Numerous scriptures reference the "soul of man":

- [Genesis 2:7](#) God created Adam and breathed the breath of life into him and Adam to "became a living soul".
- [Deuteronomy 4:29](#) tells us to seek God with all our soul, which would indicate that the soul is something man has as part of himself.
- [Deuteronomy 6:5](#) exhorts us to love God with all our soul, again a reference to something within us

The soul is the seat of all affections, passions, feelings, and the desires of man:

- Hamor said to Jacob, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter" ([Genesis 34:8](#))
- From David: "The soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul" ([1 Samuel 18:1](#))
- The soul is the seat of the affections. But as the soul loves, so it also hates; "that are hated of David's soul" ([2 Samuel 5:8](#)).
- It is in the soul where fleshly lusts, desires, and appetites arise: Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul ([Peter 2:11](#)).
- As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country ([Proverbs 25:25](#)).
- It shall be even as when a hungry man dreams, and behold, he eats; but he awakes, and his soul is empty; or as when a thirsty man dreams, and behold, he drinks; but he awakes, and behold, he is faint, and *his soul has an appetite* ([Isaiah 29:8](#)).

The soul of man is never directed at God **until after the spirit has become regenerated**. Man can never love God nor the things of God until he is born from above. **When the Spirit of God illuminates the spirit** of a man with divine light and life, that man begins to yield his affections and faculties to God through his soul.

- Mary said; "My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit rejoiced in God my Savior" ([Luke 1:46, 47](#)). She could not extol the Lord in her soul until she had recognized God in her spirit as her Savior.
- David said: "He restores my soul" ([Psalm 23:3](#)). The Hebrew word translated "restore" is said to mean quite literally "turn back." At no time had David lost his salvation, but there were times when his affections and desires were turned from the Lord, as in the case of his sin with Bathsheba.
- The Christian who is enjoying unbroken communion with his Lord will then be able to say, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name" ([Psalm 103:1](#)).

IV. The Spirit

The spirit is that part of mankind that communicates with God. We cannot make this happen ourselves and our spirit is dead to God due to our sin and an unregenerate heart. Through salvation and acceptance of Christ, the Light giving power of the Holy Spirit floods our spirit and provides a way to fellowship with our God.

1 Corinthians 2:9-16

9 However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”⁹—the things God has prepared for those who love him—¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. ¹⁵ The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶ for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

- Our human spirit is “limited to the things of man.” If I want to know about the things of God, my dead and dormant spirit is not able to know them.
- Man’s spiritual nature must be renewed before there is a true conception of Godliness
- Only one thing stands as a guard at the door of man’s spirit, and that is his own *will*. When the will is surrendered, the Holy Spirit takes up His abode in the spirit of man.
- No amount of religion or church activity can change the spirit of the unregenerate man
- The Bible says; “There is a spirit in man; and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding” ([Job 32:8](#)). Here we are told that it is the spirit of man that is given understanding.
- “For God is my witness, Whom I serve with my spirit in the Gospel” ([Romans 1:9](#))
- “God is a spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth” ([John 4:24](#))
- Unlike the description of Adam as a soul, humans are never described as "spirits." We have spirits, but we are not spirits. The spirit is that part of us that relates to God who, when He changes us, puts into us a "new spirit."

V. The Body

The tangible aspect of God’s creation in man is our physical body—bones, organs, cells, etc. God designed our body to last just as long as there was physical life in us. It is the "tent" in which the intangible parts of us dwell.

- Paul summed it up in [2 Corinthians 5:1](#), "For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

VI. Group Questions:

1. Have you ever thought of the differences between soul and spirit and where your sinful thoughts and ideas originate? Why do we do what we do, where is our sinful nature driven from; body soul or spirit?
2. With the soul being the “seat of all emotions, will and desires”, discuss from Psalms 23:2 above about David’s comments about “restoring my soul”? What happens to our desires, will and emotions absent of God restoring?
3. Can we have a relationship with God without our spirit? What about worship, praise or prayer?
4. We learned in our previous “Attributes of God Series” that God is a Spirit being. Discuss why it is necessary for us to have a “spirit” to receive divine understanding? Think about how God communicates and fellowships with us for your answer.
5. Discuss the Christian doctrine of immortality and apply which of the 3 parts of a human it applies too and how?