

Understanding Who We Are

I Thessalonians 5:23 – “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.”

SPIRIT

John 4:23, 24 – “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

- **PNEUMA** [from PNEO – to breathe] – the vital principal by which the body is animated.

Genesis 1:26-28 – “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.””

- **Note:** animals were created to reproduce after their own kind [vs 25]. Man was created after God’s kind.
- **Nelson Study Bible:**
 - “**in Our image**” – A more recent view, based on Hebrew grammar and the knowledge of the ancient Near East, interprets the phrase as meaning “Let us make man **as** our image”. In ancient times an emperor might command statues of himself to be placed in remote parts of his empire. These symbols would declare that these areas were under his power and reign. So God placed humankind as living symbols of Himself on earth to represent His reign. This interpretation fits well with the command that follows—to reign over all that God has made.
 - “**according to Our likeness**” – Since God is Spirit (John 4:24), there can be no “image” or “likeness” of Him in the normal sense of these words. We may not make images of God for He has already done so! *We are His images; it is we who are in His likeness.* This is the reason God values people so much: we are made to reflect His majesty on earth.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 – *Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.*

- **Two things Solomon didn't know:** this would only be true for believers; and the soul & spirit go together after death of the body.

SOUL

Hebrews 4:12 – *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

- **PSUCHE** – the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions. [from a root word meaning to breathe] Where we get psychology, psychiatry, etc.
- **I. e.** – Mind, will, emotions.

James 1:21 **[AMP]** – *So get rid of all uncleanness and the rampant outgrowth of wickedness, and in a humble (gentle, modest) spirit receive and welcome the Word which implanted and rooted [in your hearts] contains the power to save your souls.*

BODY

I Corinthians 6:19, 20 – *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”*

- SOMA – Earth suit.

I Corinthians 9:27 – *“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”*

Brain.

- A processor.
- It acts as a doorway of the information received through the body (senses) and passed to the mind.

Heart.

- Part of spirit and soul. As such, it is the real me.
- **Functionally:** the seat of all feelings (good or bad); the core of my understanding; the lens through which I see & interpret the world around me.

II Corinthians 5:17-21 – *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

- **Reconciliation** – bringing together those who were at variance.
- **Note:** in receiving Christ we receive the gift of righteousness.

Romans 12:1, 2 – *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

- **We're being saved** – renewing the mind is part of an ongoing transformation.

Romans 5:9-11 [NLT] – *And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's judgment. ¹⁰ For since we were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God.*