

"Spiritual life and Man's Three Dimensions"

God's great desire was to have communion and fellowship with man -- so He created man and placed him in a "material" world. For man to communicate and have a tangible relationship with this physical world, God created man with a "physical" body capable of such communication. However, because God is "Spirit," (John 4:24), man was also be able to communicate with God in spirit, therefore, God also created him with a *spirit* dimension.

Because man had contact with both worlds, [heaven and earth], he had to be able to communicate with both these worlds - with both the spiritual world and the temporal world in which he lived. And, so, to make communication with both these worlds possible, God created man with a *physical* body to communicate with the external world around him and God created him with a "spirit" to communicate with Himself. At creation, God placed the spirit of man within his body and the union of these two, *spirit and body*, produced a third dimension within man, his "soul." Scriptures says, "Man became a living soul."

Man, a "soul," stood between two worlds and belonged to both. Through his *body*, man was linked to the visible, material earthly world around him and through his *spirit* he was linked to the spiritual, eternal, and heavenly world of God Himself.

Genesis 2:7 is an important Scripture in understanding the makeup of man's nature, it reads, "And the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground and then breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul."

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| <p>“God formed man of the dust of the ground...”</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">MAN'S BODY</p> <p>Because man needed a body in order to communicate with the external world in which he dwelt, God formed a body out of the earth and equipped it with five senses. This body was the home for man's spirit and became man's outlet to the world of his senses.</p> |
| <p>“and God breathed [brought spirit] into his nostrils the breath of life.”</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">MAN'S SPIRIT</p> <p>God first formed the human frame for man and then "breathed into it the breath of life." This "breath of life" was man's spirit and this spirit enabled man to be in relationship to the unseen, spiritual, world of God - to have fellowship with God and to apprehend, love and worship God.</p> |
| <p>...and man became a living soul.</p> <p>Genesis 2:7</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">MAN'S SOUL</p> <p>With the union of man's body and spirit, he became "a living soul." The soul is that aspect of man's being that, like a photographer's dark room, develops the impressions of the external world around him, which have been gathered by his physical senses, into distinct expressions of thought, emotions, and desire.</p> |

1. Man's *spirit* is the seat of his God-consciousness - *where God dwelt!*
2. Man's *soul* is the seat of his self-consciousness - *where self dwelt*

3. Man's **body** is the seat of his world-consciousness - *where his senses dwell*

Man is **not** a body, he **has** a body, he dwells **within** a body -- man **is** a "living soul."

Man's body has *life*, but so does his soul have *life*, therefore, man has body-life and **soul-life!**

A term that has been used by psychologists, to describe the life of the soul, is psychic-life. The energy of this soul-life [psychic energy] activates a man's personality and, just as physical life animates his muscles and body functions, so does soul-life animate his thinking and feeling processes. And, despite the fact that thinking and feeling are intangible processes, that is, no one can physically "touch," or "see" man's thoughts or feelings, they are, nonetheless, no less real than the *tangible* processes of the body!

The work of the soul - (the *person* dwelling in a body) - functions separately from the body, so, the soul exists apart from the body. Therefore, all "*physical death*" means is that the person who lived inside the body is no longer uses it and, when death comes to the body, the person who lived inside this body must depart from it.

Christian psychologists do not agree with today's *secular* psychologists, who hold that psychic energy comes from the transformed, vital, energy of one's body, because Scripture teaches the immortality of man, asserting that all men live somewhere after death.

God has made all men for eternity! Therefore, all men are equipped with eternal, psychic-life. It is God's divine intention that all men should spend eternity with Him and, while it is true that not all *will*, God appeals to all men to come unto Him, showing no respect, or partiality, toward any. Man was made in God's image and the future fellowship in eternity will be one in which eternal beings enjoy the presence of God and one another for all of eternity.

No man is created just to come into this world and to die here!

Man is not created just for the experience of earth, but, rather, he is created for eternity. Every man is born with eternal, psychic-life and, therefore, he comes into the world as an eternal, immortal soul who has been made for eternity.

What is "*spiritual life*"?

God warned Adam in Genesis 2:17, "*But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*" God instructed Adam not to partake of the "*tree of the knowledge of good and evil*" and then goes on to tell him that he would "*die the day that he ate thereof.*"

Adam's "*death*" was brought on by his sin and disobedience - but what kind of death was it?

The day Adam disobeyed God, and "*died*" as a result of his disobedience, he did not die "*physically*," because he lived for 930 years beyond that day, and he did not die "*psychologically*" because he still possessed a personality, he still had the ability to think and to know. If Adam's death was neither physical-death nor psychic-death, then, obviously, it had to be another kind of death.

HOW DID ADAM "*DIE*" THAT DAY HE DISOBEYED GOD?

When Adam disobeyed God, he was driven out of the garden of Eden, from the presence of the Lord, so that the fellowship between him and God was broken. Therefore, the "death" that God warned Adam about, if he disobeyed Him, was Adam's separation from God, and the day that Adam **did** disobey God he **was** separated from God when the communication and fellowship that he had with God was broken as a result of his disobedience. Adam is said to have "**died**" that day. This "death" of man's spirit . . . spiritual separation from God . . . is real death as far as God is concerned. Therefore, when the Bible speaks of "*spiritual death*," it means "*the separated state of living souls from God.*"

A man possessed *physical* life, that is, his body functions so that he walks about the earth, breathing and performing all the things peculiar to physical existence.

A man possesses *psychic* life, that is, he personally thinks, feels and gives vent to passion. He does all the things relative to *soul* life.

However, even though man is *physically* and *psychologically* alive, he is regarded as *spiritually* dead, unless he is *joined to God, through Jesus Christ.*

In Ephesians 2:1, in referring to their former separated state from God, Paul speaks of those who were "**dead in trespasses and sin.**" They had *physical* and *psychic* life and, yet, they were regarded as "**dead.**" Paul's uses of the term "**dead**" has to do with the **SEPARATION OF LIVING BEINGS** from God. Paul referred to those who did not have fellowship, or union, with God as being "**dead.**"

Man, who is created for God, is regarded as **lost** unless he is united with God. (This is where the expressions "lost" and "saved" come from.) A man is lost until he is joined to God.

A man is not lost to himself, but, rather, he is lost to God. Knowing what he wants, man is willing to spend a lifetime getting it and it never even occurs to him that he is lost, but he **is** lost, lost to God and to God's purpose for his life.

God made man for Himself and, when God and man are separated from each other, man is spiritually dead. "*Spiritual death*" is a state of dis-union between man and God.

Romans 6:23 states, "*The wages of sin is death..(spiritual death, that is, separation from God)...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" This gift of God...this gift of Life...is the gift of Jesus Christ because it is Jesus Who restores man to God. It is because *reunion* between God and man is accomplished by Jesus Christ that He can say, "*I am the Life.*"

WHY DIDN'T GOD DESTROY ADAM AND SIMPLY START ALL OVER AGAIN WITH A NEW RACE OF PEOPLE?

We saw in past lessons that God's ultimate intention for man is more than just to save him from sin and take him to heaven when he dies. God's original purpose for

man was to conform him . . . through inner spiritual development . . . into the image of His son, Jesus Christ, and to bring him into full stature and maturity.

God would not just abandon man, nor His plan for man, because, "God *so loved* the world that He gave His only begotten Son." God would not *destroy* His creation, but, rather, He would *redeem* His creation. The Cross forever stands as a measure of God's consummate passion for man and His determination to fulfill His purpose within man, and it is only in the light of God's love and purpose that the Cross makes any sense.

In order for God to save man, and to fulfill His purpose within man, more was required than His simple offer of forgiveness. The redemption goes far beyond the idea of God just *forgiving* man because God's forgiveness alone could not *begin* to accomplish the kind of reconciliation that God sought with man. Unfortunately, many are tempted to think of God's salvation for man in terms of His forgiveness alone.

Man's separation from God is due, in the first place, to the *depraved nature* that man acquires as a result of being born in the line of Adam's race. Adam's fall in the Garden of Eden effected a change in Adam's nature, a change in Adam himself and, as "heirs," **all** men became the enemies of God by **NATURE**. In Ephesians 2:3, Paul, when speaking of being "*dead in trespasses and sins*," states, "*ye were by nature the children of wrath*."

It is because man inherits Adam's depraved nature, and, therefore, needs to have his nature **changed**, that God's problem in saving man involves more than just His forgiving man, because God's forgiveness alone does not change a person's nature.

Man's depraved, sinful nature makes him an enemy of God . . . separated him from God . . . which is why man's nature must be changed if he is to be reconciled to God and, since man cannot change his nature, it is God who must change man's nature by doing something within man.

It is because God had to deal with man's nature that Jesus came to earth as God in human form. Jesus came to do **two important things** on behalf of man:

- (1) Christ Jesus came to reveal to man just how much God loves man and how desperately He desires to forgive him of his sins. Jesus came to pay the penalty for man's sins, He came to die in man's place for man's sins in order that man could go free from the debt of his sins.
- (2) Christ Jesus came to provide man with a new and righteous nature so that man could be conformed into the image of Himself and be equipped for eternity with a Righteous God.

Man is a sinner because of his nature, and it is because of his sinful nature that he is separated from God. Therefore, if a man is to be eligible for eternal fellowship with God, he must be redeemed by, personally, inviting the Lord, Jesus Christ, to come into his life and, upon this invitation, Jesus Christ brings about the needed changes that enable him to have fellowship and union with God.

God will **not** impose Himself upon anyone. John 1:12 states, "*To as many as will receive Him gives He power to become the sons of God.*" God is willing to come into anyone's heart . . . (whosoever) . . .and to create, within him, a whole new nature that will equip him for the heavenly state.

Since the Christ that is invited, and comes, into our hearts, and lives, **is God**, it means, then, that, at the very moment of our invitation, we are **united** with God in a literal union. And if *life* - (real life) - means union with God, as we have seen that it does, then we can comprehend how the gift of spiritual life becomes ours by the receiving of Jesus Christ into our lives.