

Discipleship:  
An  
Introduction to  
Systematic Theology and  
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Creation:

The Heights Church June 26, 2016

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

## How many parts do we have?

- For sure we have a body but is there a difference between our soul and spirit?
- Monism: We are just a body. Soul and spirit are just expressions for the person.
- Dichotomy: We have a physical body and an immaterial part. Soul and spirit are different words for the same immaterial part.
- Trichotomy: We have a body, a soul, and a spirit. The soul includes the intellect, emotions and the will. The spirit is a higher faculty that comes alive when a person becomes a Christian.

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **mind**. (Matthew 22:37)

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **mind** and with all your **strength**.’ (Mark 12:30)

And Mary said, “My **soul** magnifies the Lord, and my **spirit** rejoices in God my Savior, (Luke 1:46-47)

“Now is my **soul** troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. (John 12:27)

Jesus was troubled in his **spirit**, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” (John 13:21)

For if I pray in a tongue, my **spirit** prays but my **mind** is unfruitful. (1 Corinthians 14:14)

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

- So besides our body Scripture talks of heart, strength, mind, spirit and soul.
- There must be some limit on how many parts we have so Evangelical theologians have landed in either the dichotomy or trichotomy camps. Therefore we will explore whether or not there is a difference between soul (Greek *psychē*) and spirit (Greek *pneuma*).

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

- **At death Scripture either says the soul or the spirit departs.**

But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your **soul** is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ (Luke 12:20)

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my **spirit!**” And having said this he breathed his last. (Luke 23:46)

- **We are said to be body and soul or body and spirit.**

And do not fear those who kill the **body** but cannot kill the **soul**. Rather fear him who can destroy both **soul** and **body** in hell. (Matthew 10:28)

For as the **body** apart from the **spirit** is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. (James 2:26)

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

- **The Soul can sin and the Spirit can sin.**

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of **body** and **spirit**, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

Having purified your **souls** by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (1 Peter 1:22)

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

## Verses that seem to support Trichotomy:

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

If we take these as distinct parts then shouldn't we add **heart**, **mind** and **strength** to the list?

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your soul and with all your **mind**. (Matthew 22:37)

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your **strength**.' (Mark 12:30)

It is better to say these verses list words used interchangeably for our immaterial part which Paul wants God to continue to sanctify until Jesus returns.

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

## Verses that seem to support Trichotomy:

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of **soul** and of **spirit**, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the **heart**.

(Hebrews 4:12)

This does not mean the word of God can separate the soul from the spirit. Rather this means our deep inward parts (soul/spirit) are not hidden from the word of God. The word of God is so powerful that it exposes our disobedience/submission to God.



# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

## Trichotomy versus dichotomy:

- Trichotomy has a link to Greek Philosophy in which it was thought the body and spirit could only relate to one another through an intermediary – the soul.
- Trichotomy can fall into the Gnostic error of seeing the physical world including our bodies as evil in opposition to:

**And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.  
(Genesis 1:31)**

**I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1)**

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

## Trichotomy versus dichotomy:

- **Trichotomy can have an anti-intellectual bent if the spirit is defined as that part of us that relates most directly to God and is distinct from our intellect, emotions and will.**

**And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ (Mark 12:30)**

**We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, (2 Corinthians 10:5)**

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

## Trichotomy versus dichotomy:

- **A strength of dichotomy is that it sees us as having unity and doesn't lessen the value of our intellects, emotions and will.**

**A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. (Proverbs 17:22)**

- **This unity means that our growth must encompass all aspects of our lives.**

**But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16)**

**Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 7:1)**

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

## Common Questions about the soul/spirit.

- **Do animals have a soul?**

**If souls means intellect, emotions and will, then higher animals have a soul. BUT if it means the immaterial part of us that relates to God and lives forever, then animals do not have a soul.**

**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! (Psalm 103:1)**

**And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, (Luke 1:46-47)**

**When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. (Revelation 6:9)**

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

## Common Questions about the soul/spirit.

- Where do our souls/spirits come from?

**Creationism:** God creates a new soul for each person and sends it to the person's body sometime between conception and birth. This is the prevailing Roman Catholic view. John Calvin also favored this view.

**Traducianism:** The soul and the body are inherited from the baby's parents. Most Lutherans (including Luther of course) favor this view as did Jonathan Edwards.

**Pre-existentism:** Souls of people exist in heaven long before their bodies are conceived. God brings the soul to earth to join with the developing baby's body before birth. This view is not held by Protestants or Roman Catholics and is without Scriptural basis. It is reminiscent of Eastern religion's concepts of reincarnation.

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

## Common Questions about the soul/spirit.

- **Where do our souls/spirits come from?**

**In the end this tantalizing question is not answered in Scripture. It is reasonable to assume that just as God is active in all aspects of creation, He also creates each human soul. But how He does this and the degree to which secondary causes (inheritance) come into play cannot be definitively determined.**

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

## Common Questions about the soul/spirit.

- **Do unbelievers have dead spirits/souls that come alive at regeneration?**

**Unbelievers have a spirit/soul but it is in rebellion towards God.**

**But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the LORD had said. (Exodus 8:15)**

**But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had spoken to Moses. (Exodus 9:12)**

**But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (Romans 8:10)**

# Creation of Humans; Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit

## Common Questions about the soul/spirit.

- Do unbelievers have dead spirits/souls that come alive at regeneration?

Unbelievers have a spirit/soul but it is in rebellion towards God.

And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the **spirit** that is now at work in the **sons of disobedience**—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were **dead** in our trespasses, made us **alive** together with Christ—**by grace you have been saved**— (Ephesians 2:1-5)



# Discipleship: An Introduction to Systematic Theology & Apologetics



**LORD willing, our study of Systematic Theology will resume on September 11, 2016 with a study of the Doctrines of Redemption.**