

What is Man?

By T. Austin-Sparks

1. Man's High Prospect and Destiny



Man's High Prospect and Destiny

Man's dignity

Psalm 8:3-6 Man made in the image of God

Christ's intervention

Hebrews 2:5-9 Fallen man redeemed by the Son of Man

A vital distinction (Rom. 2:18; Phil. 1:10)

Man's spirit is distinct from his soul.



Man's High Prospect and Destiny

Ignoring the spirit/soul distinction is a factor in serious problems in discipleship.

1. Questionable conversions
2. Minimal spiritual growth
3. Little fruit



Man's High Prospect and Destiny

What is the cause of this blindness in biblical psychology?

1. The Devil does not want us to know accurate Bible doctrine.
2. The teachers of God's people have been negligent.
3. Theological peer pressure



Man's High Prospect and Destiny

How did the belief in man as only dichotomous become so widespread?

1. The influence of Greek philosophy on Church Fathers
2. The limited worldview of modern psychology



Man's High Prospect and Destiny

Introducing the spirit/soul distinction in Scripture

- The phrase the “inner man” (hidden man) refers to the human spirit Rom. 7:22; 1 Peter 3:4
- Man is spirit, soul, and body. 1 Thess. 5:23
- The use of the adjective (literally) “soulical” 1 Cor. 2:14; James 3:15
- The possibility of man's spirit praying while the mind does not comprehend it 1 Cor. 14:14
- Paul's spiritual visit to heaven 2 Cor. 12:1-5



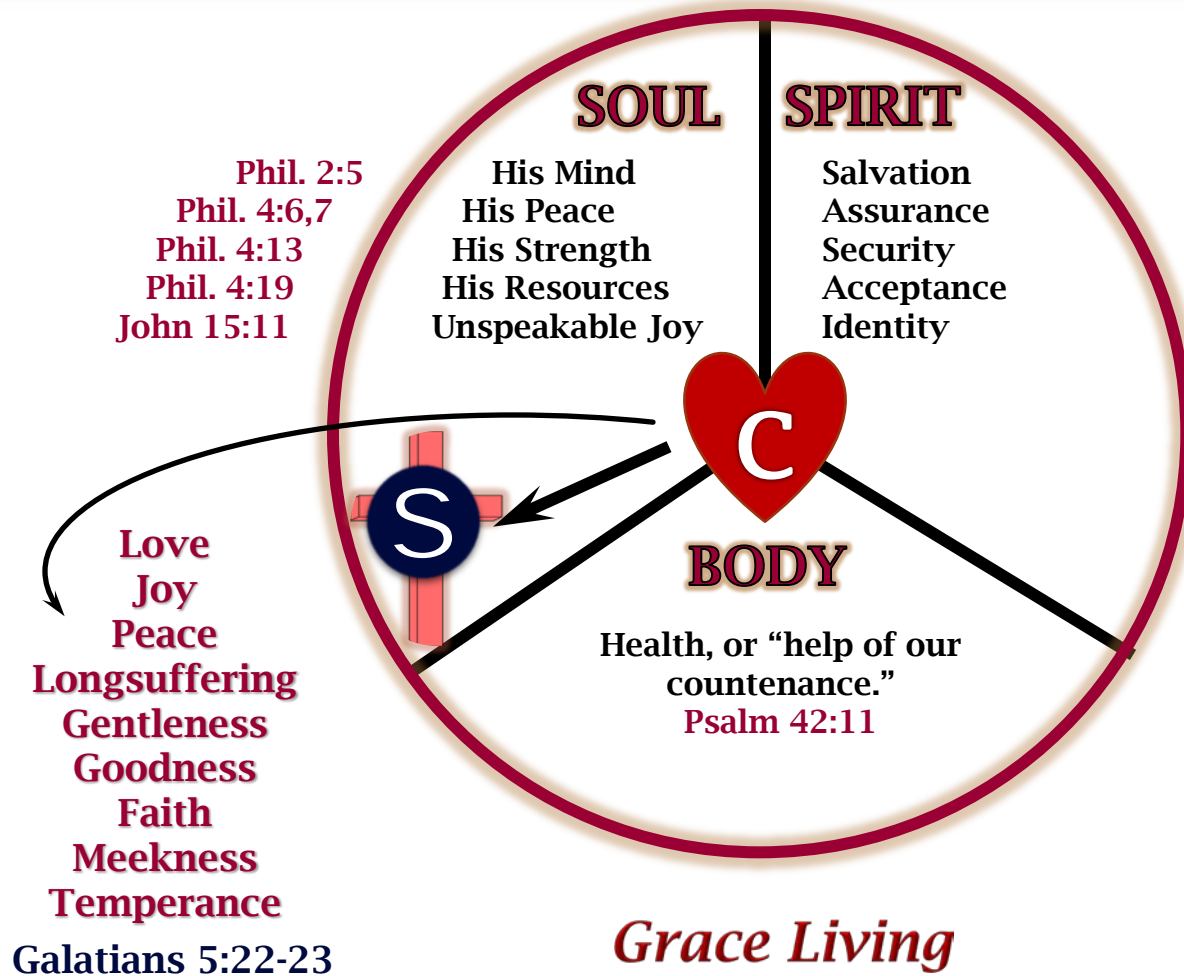
Man's High Prospect and Destiny

The distinction summarized

- Man's spirit – God consciousness Rom. 8:16
- Man's soul – self consciousness John 12:27



CHRIST-CENTERED CONDITION



Identified with Christ

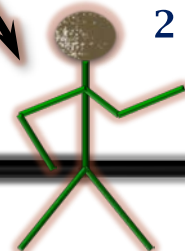
In Adam

Galatians 2:20



Redemption

1 Corinthians 1:30
2 Corinthians 5:17



Eternal Life

The new man

Hell

Jesus Christ
The Last Adam

Romans 6:3-6



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2. Now Another Species



Now Another Species

The nature of the fall of Adam and Eve

The unsaved person's unregenerate condition is essential to grasp.

God does not intend that "the old man" should be consecrated to Him. (The old man has to be crucified, not consecrated. Rom. 6:6)

Underestimating the fall may be a factor in many who are religious, but not really born again. (And if you're not born again, the victorious life is not an available option.)



Now Another Species

Progressive unfolding of biblical truth

It is important to recognize the nature of progressive revelation in the Bible. (We do not merely categorize areas of Bible teaching, but see the truth as a whole.)

Examples:

- The triune nature of God
- Christ's 2nd advent
- The triune nature of man

The Holy Spirit gives more complete revelation in the New Testament. John 16:13



Now Another Species

Man as created and constituted

Man is spirit, soul, and body. It was in the upsetting of this order that function was affected fatally, *and man became other than God intended him to be.*

- God is spirit. John 4:24
- God sustains. Acts 17:28-29
- God is the Father of our spirits. Hebrews 12:9
- God begets children. John 3:6

- Only spirit can discern Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:9-11
- Only spirit can worship Spirit. Philippians 3:3
- Only spirit can serve Spirit. Romans 1:9
- Only spirit can receive revelation from God. Rev. 1:10



Now Another Species

Original design:

God determined to have all His dealings with man, and to fulfill all His purpose through a man, by means of man's *spirit*.

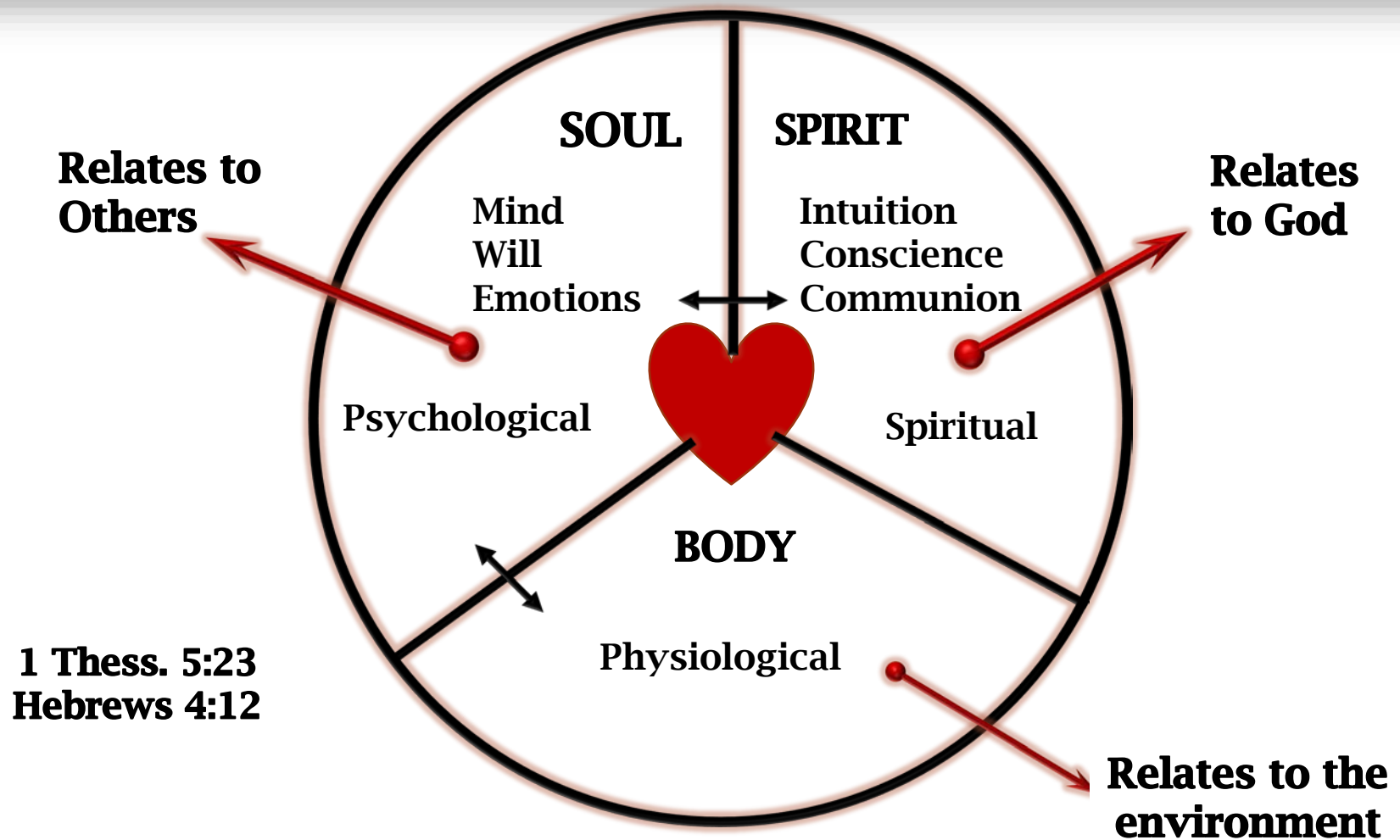
Original sin:

Adam sinned and spiritually died--as God warned--on "that day." Gen. 2:17

Upon Adam's sin, breaking the covenant, his spirit was separated from the life of God. Hosea 6:7; Eph 2:1



The Model of Man



Man -- A Tri-Unity



Now Another Species

The nature of Adam's temptation

The temptation was for man to have everything in himself--to be a self directing, self possessing, self-sufficient, independent being.

Tragic consequences of the fall

1. God's kingship was abandoned; Satan became “the god of this world.” 2 Cor. 4:4
2. Man's spirit ceased to be a link between himself and God and sank down the subjection to man's soul. Prov. 14:12
3. Man has become an altogether different “species” than God intended. Gen.5:3



Now Another Species

Adam's probation

Adam was not to remain merely innocent, but to advance to spiritual maturity and experiential holiness: from childhood, to sonship, from the outward to the inward spiritual government. (Consider the lifelong testing of Christ as He learned experiential obedience - Hebrews 5:8.)

The symbolism of the tree of life: a type of Christ - Col. 1:27

Adam was separated from the tree of life and abolished from the garden of Eden. Gen. 3:22-24

Discern spirit, soul, and the nature of God's gift of eternal life.
1 John 5:11



Now Another Species

The creation formula Genesis 2:7

The material element, the formative factor, the final issue.

The breath of "lives" creates man's spirit.

Mysterious, but distinct:

The relationship between soul and body Lev. 17:11

The Word and Spirit of God can divide soul and spirit. Heb. 4:12

The human soul is the meeting place between spirit and body
("lower than the angels" yet above the realm of animals).

The first Adam was a living "soul," the Last Adam is a "life-giving Spirit." 1 Cor 15:45



Now Another Species

Conclusion

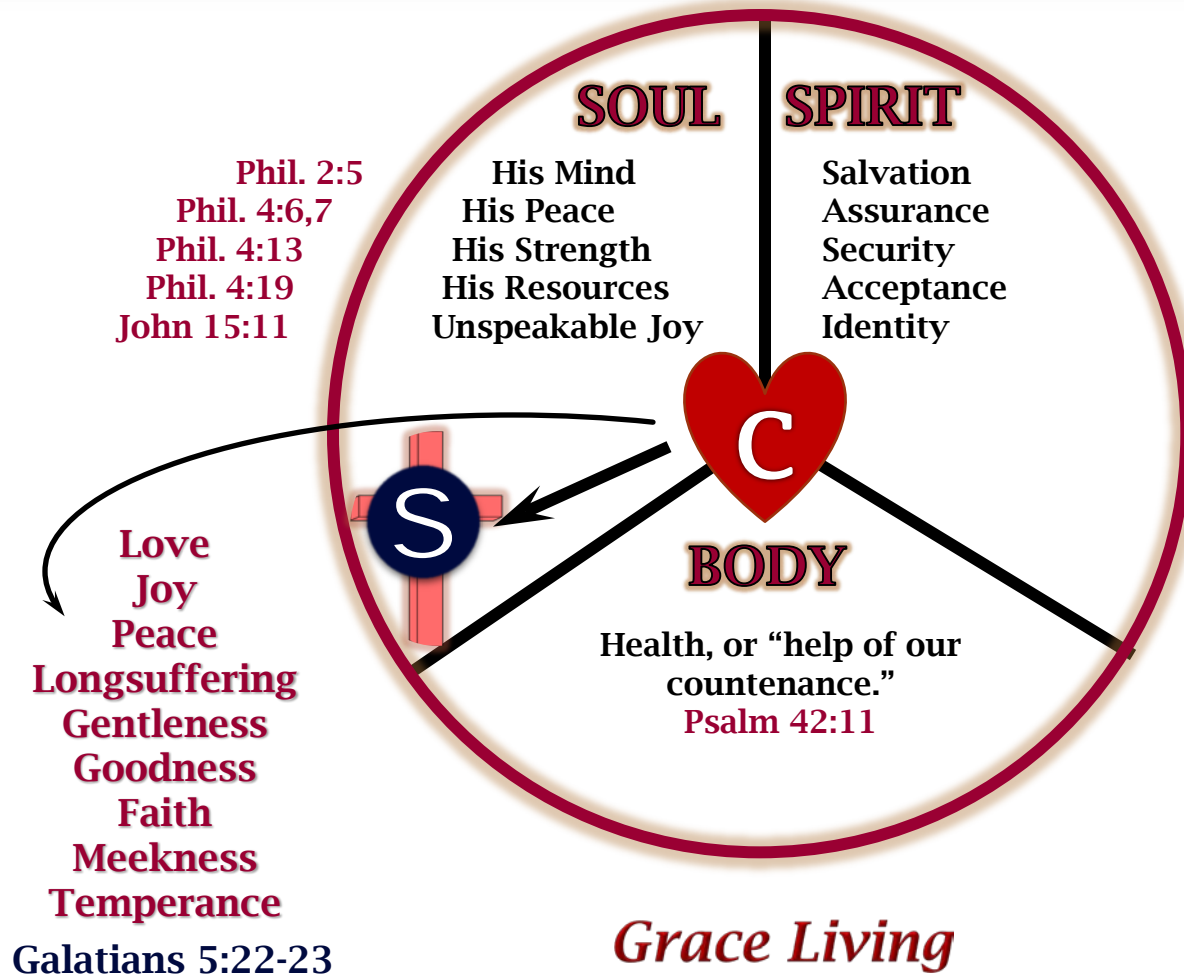
Genesis 2:7: Man was created with God consciousness (spirit), self consciousness (soul), sense consciousness (body).

Genesis 3:1-8: By asserting himself (the ego) in favor of the body and not of the spirit, Adam became a sinful soul. Because of spiritual death and soulical dominance, man must be saved from himself through Christ--through His atoning death and resurrection life.

When the spirit is regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and the person is yielded to God, the soul can serve the Lord as a handmaiden of the spirit with real usefulness.



CHRIST-CENTERED CONDITION



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3. Where Psychology Fails



Where Psychology Fails

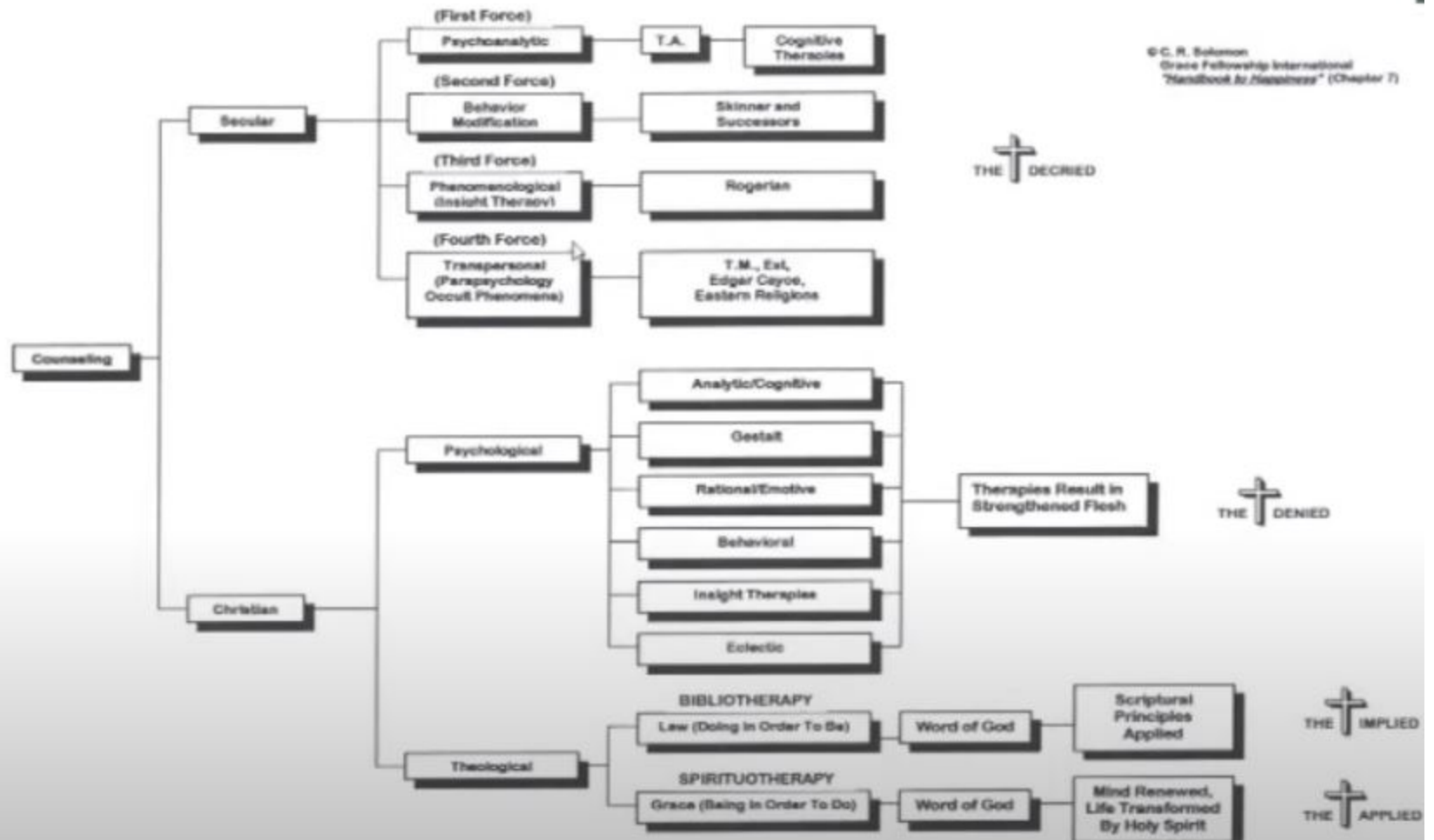
Warning:

Secular, scientific, observable psychology, does *not* recognize man, a spirit, soul, and body.

- However, in many cases, the psychologist recognizes a deeper aspect of the soul.
- Yet, the spiritual aspect of man is not correctly identified and named.
- The "objective mind" and the "subjective mind" are not just two sides of one thing.
- It is man's *spirit* that can be united with God's Spirit. 1 Cor. 6:17



COUNSELING MODALITIES



Where Psychology Fails

That is born again as salvation?

Consider Christ's teaching in John 3:3-12.

What is reborn is not body or soul. 2 Cor. 5:17

The human *spirit* is reborn at regeneration. Titus 3:4-7

Regeneration is based on the redemption accomplished by Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and bodily resurrection. It is experienced by grace through personal faith, not by works.

Assurance of the new birth is based on God's Word by faith,

- Even if we don't physically sense it (body)
- Even if we don't fully comprehend it (mind)
- Even if we don't feel it (emotions)
- Even if we don't always behave righteously (will)



Where Psychology Fails

What is the place and role of the human soul?

Adam's original sin was initiated in his soul. Rom. 5:12

Fallen man is in a disrupted state. (see ch. 2)

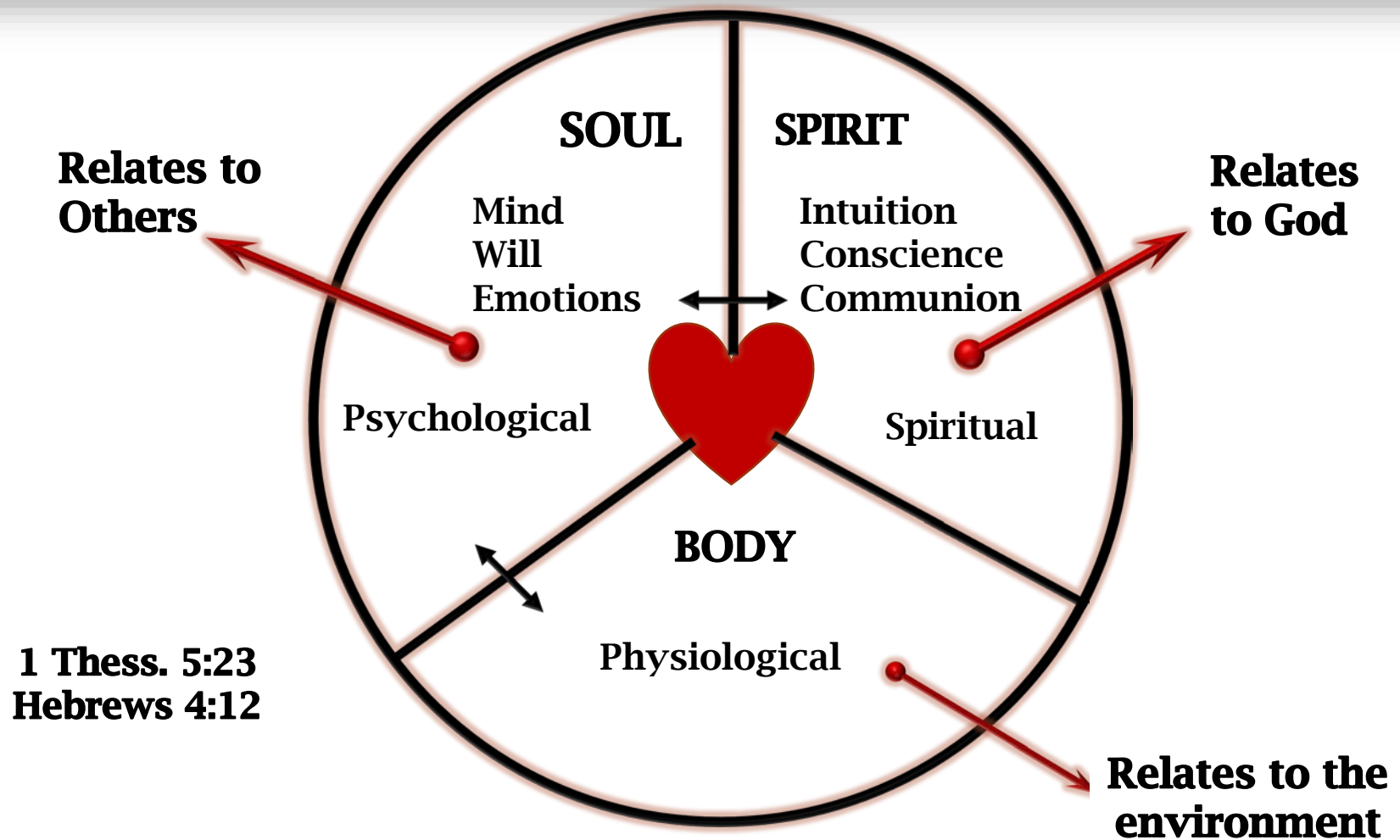
- This disrupted the divine order (spirit -> soul -> body).
- This divine order was perfectly exemplified in Jesus, The Son of Man.
- This divine order is reestablished through redemption and sanctification.

The new human spirit is the organ of divine government within man. Prov. 20:27

The human soul is the organ of human life and communication.



The Model of Man



Man -- A Tri-Unity



Where Psychology Fails

The role of the soul (continued):

- The soul translates spiritual discoveries for practical purposes.
- The soul perceives physical sense data and harmonizes it with spiritual discernment and rational understanding.
- Spiritual faculties of intuition, conscience, and communion are essential for living in truth and wisdom.

True spiritual illumination never contradicts God's inspired Word.
Eph. 1:17,18; 2 Tim 3:16

What about the devil's use of the Bible in tempting Christ?
Matt. 4:9-12



Where Psychology Fails

The role of the soul (continued):

The soul functions according to God's design:

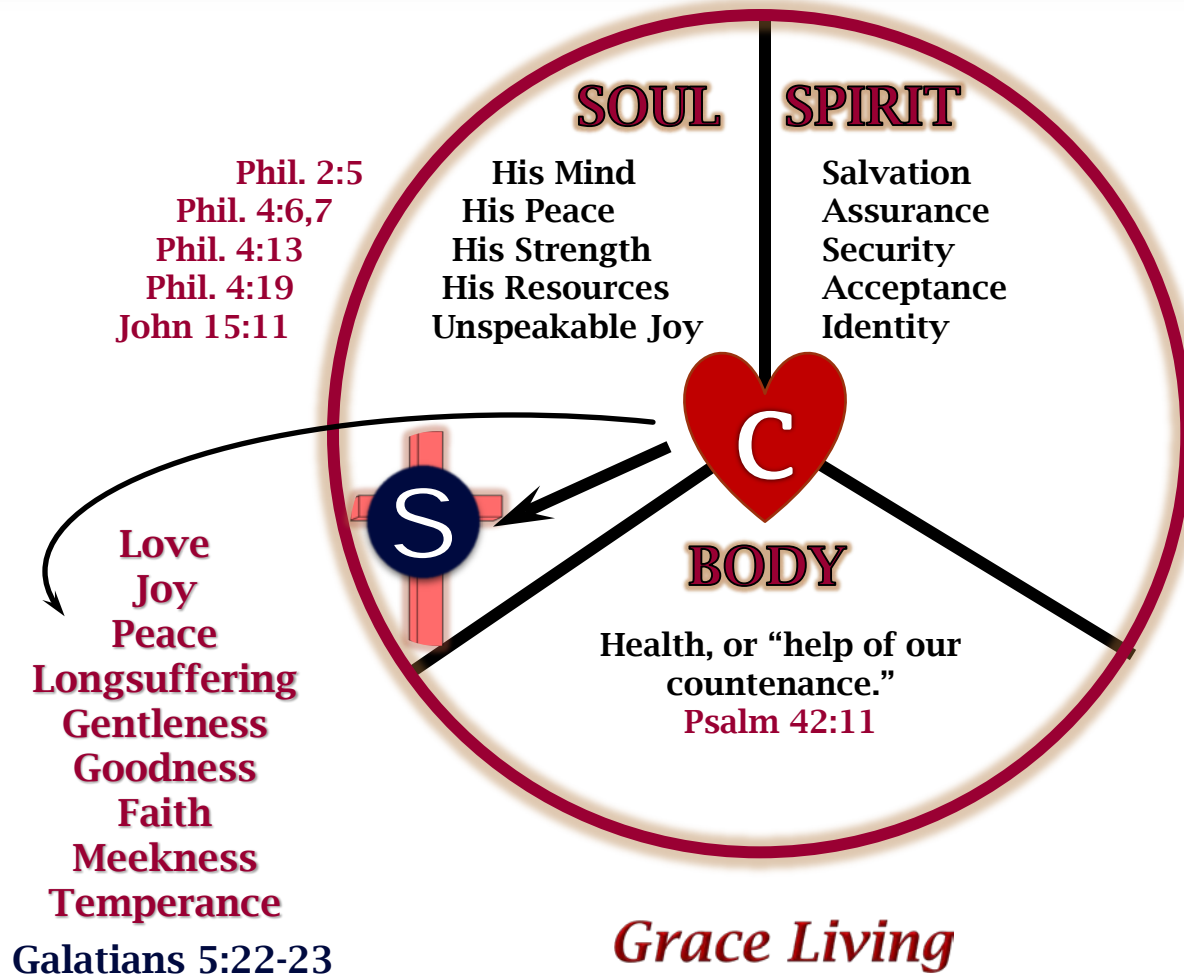
- When self sufficiency / independence is abandoned Luke 9:23
- When it is submitted to, and in harmony with, God's Spirit and the regenerated spirit Gal. 5:16

Spiritual governance is not suppression or negation of the soul (as in Buddhism).

Spiritual governance is the way of joy, peace, and fulfillment.
Matt 11:28-30



CHRIST-CENTERED CONDITION



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4. The Nature of Sanctification



The Nature of Sanctification

The Nature of Sanctification

- To *sanctify* is to be set apart from sin unto God. Heb. 10:10,14
- We are set apart *initially* at salvation and we are called to grow in *progressive* sanctification. Heb. 10:10,14; 2 Cor. 7:1
- Sanctification is the continuation of regeneration, the growth and progress of new spiritual life in Christ. Eph. 4:24
- The nature of sanctification is clarified when we discern the difference between the human soul and spirit. 1 Thess. 5:23
- It is the human *spirit* that is reborn from above. Heb. 12:9
- The *soul* remains prone to evil and is the primary focus for progressive sanctification. James 1:21



The Nature of Sanctification

The soul / spirit distinction is important to accurately understand Romans 7:7-25

This is descriptive of the flesh-against-spirit conflict. Gal. 5:17

Indications that this describes a saved person. Rom. 7:21,22 -

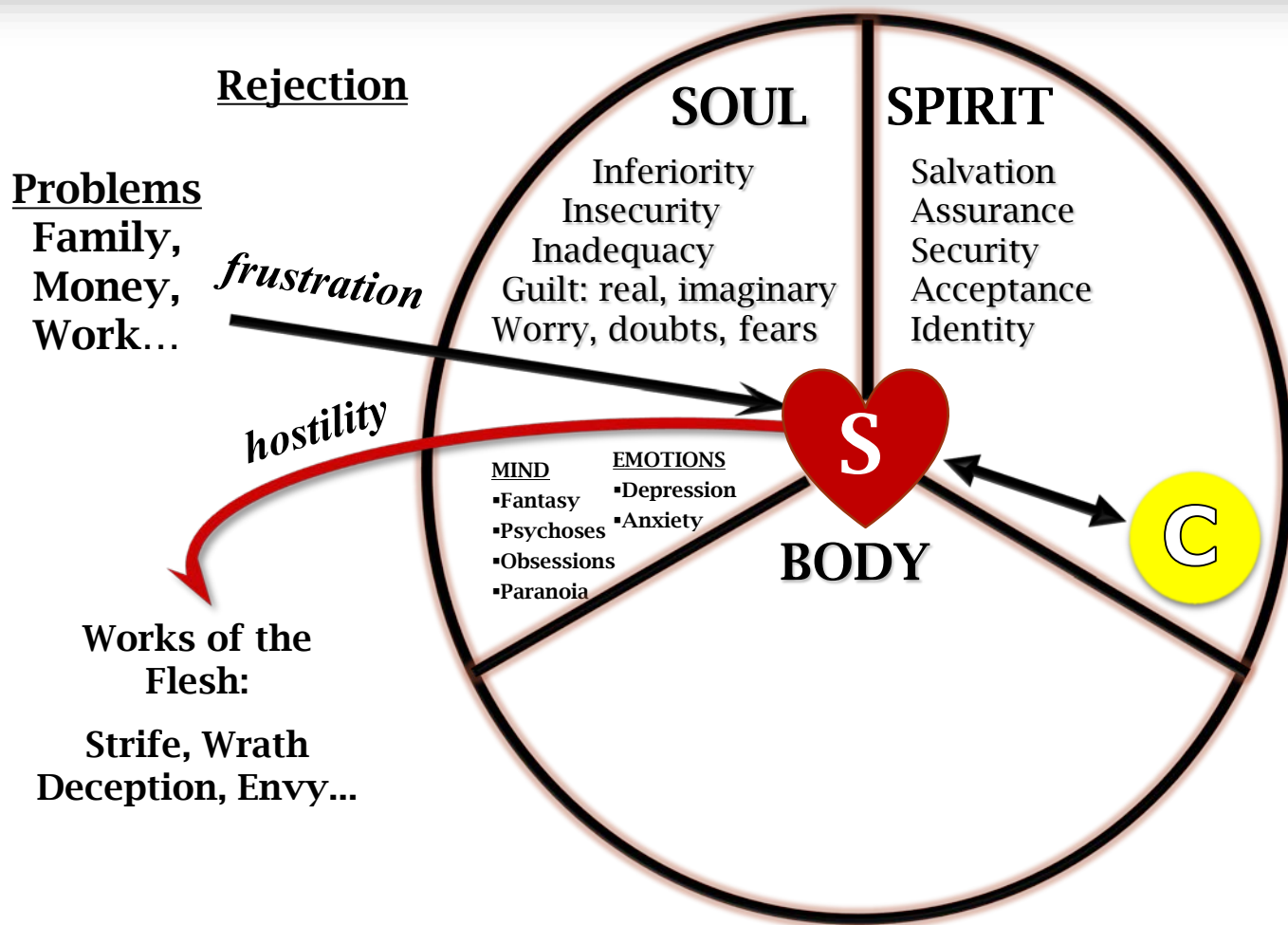
Paul's testimony of inner conflict here was not only after his regeneration (Acts 9) but after an awakening to the spiritual scope of the law and how it inadvertently intensifies fleshly resistance.

Compare Phil. 3:6 with Rom. 7:7-11,13,14; 1 Cor. 15:56

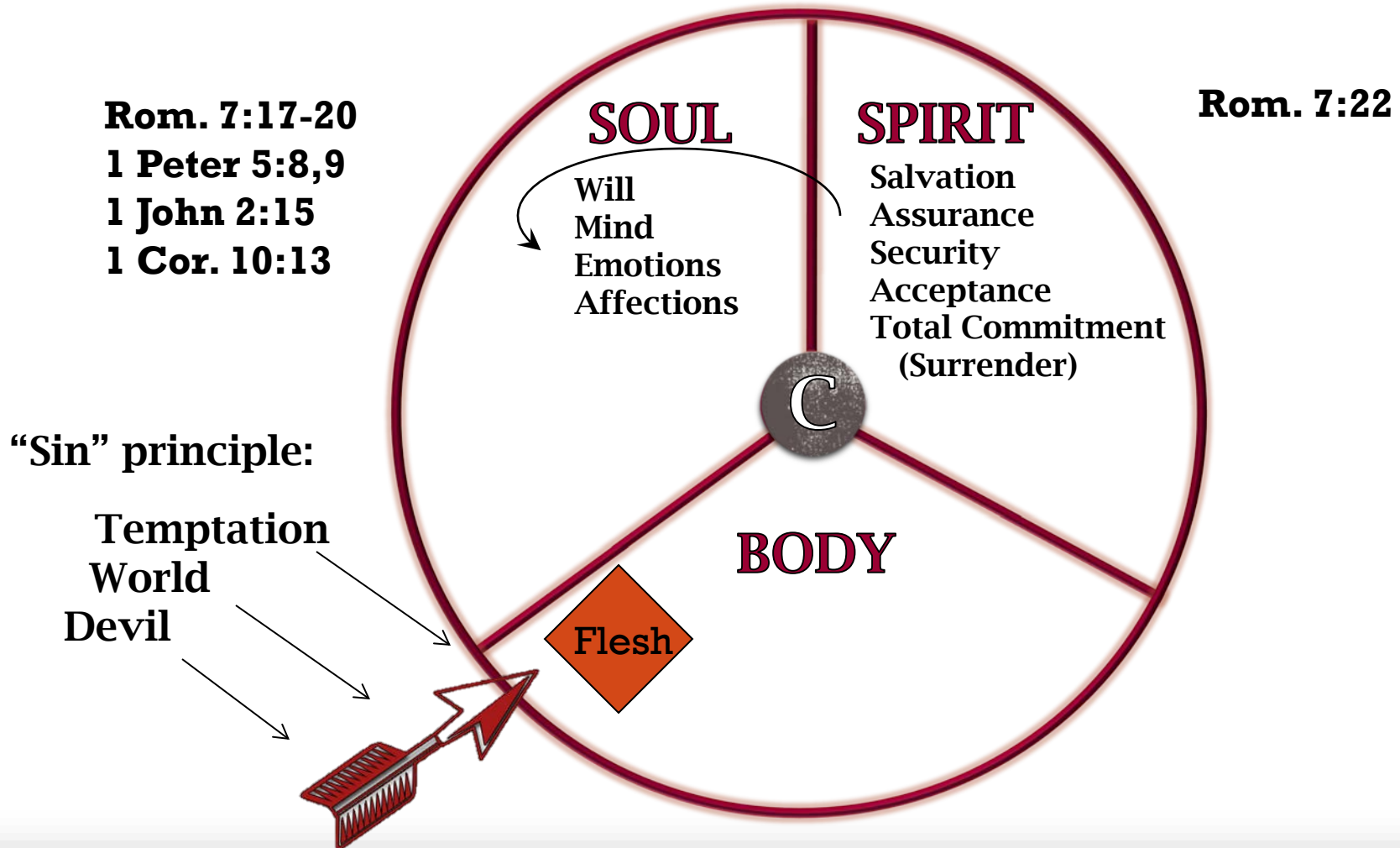
- Ch. 5 Justification through Christ
- Ch 6 Identification with Christ
- Ch 7 Frustration under the law (through the flesh)
- Ch 8 Sanctification by grace (through the Holy Spirit)



Carnal Christian Condition



THE SIN INFLUENCE



The Nature of Sanctification

Without the soul / spirit distinction, errors emerge.

- Settling for this “wretched man” misery as the normal Christian life
- Rejecting one's accountability to the moral law--
“antinomianism”

Two other errors

- Confusing justification (a matter of position) with sanctification (a matter of condition)
- Confusing goals (the quest to eradicate the sin nature instead of progressive holiness)



The Nature of Sanctification

Without the soul/spirit distinction there seems to be a contradiction in 1 John.

1 John 1:8-10 (everyone still sins)

1 John 3:4,6,8,9 (regenerate believers don't sin)

Answer

Context helps (the problem of Gnosticism)

Grammar helps (Greek tense: habitual behavior / practicing sin)

It is the new *spirit* that contains the "seed" of divine life, is righteous in character, and which cannot practice sin.



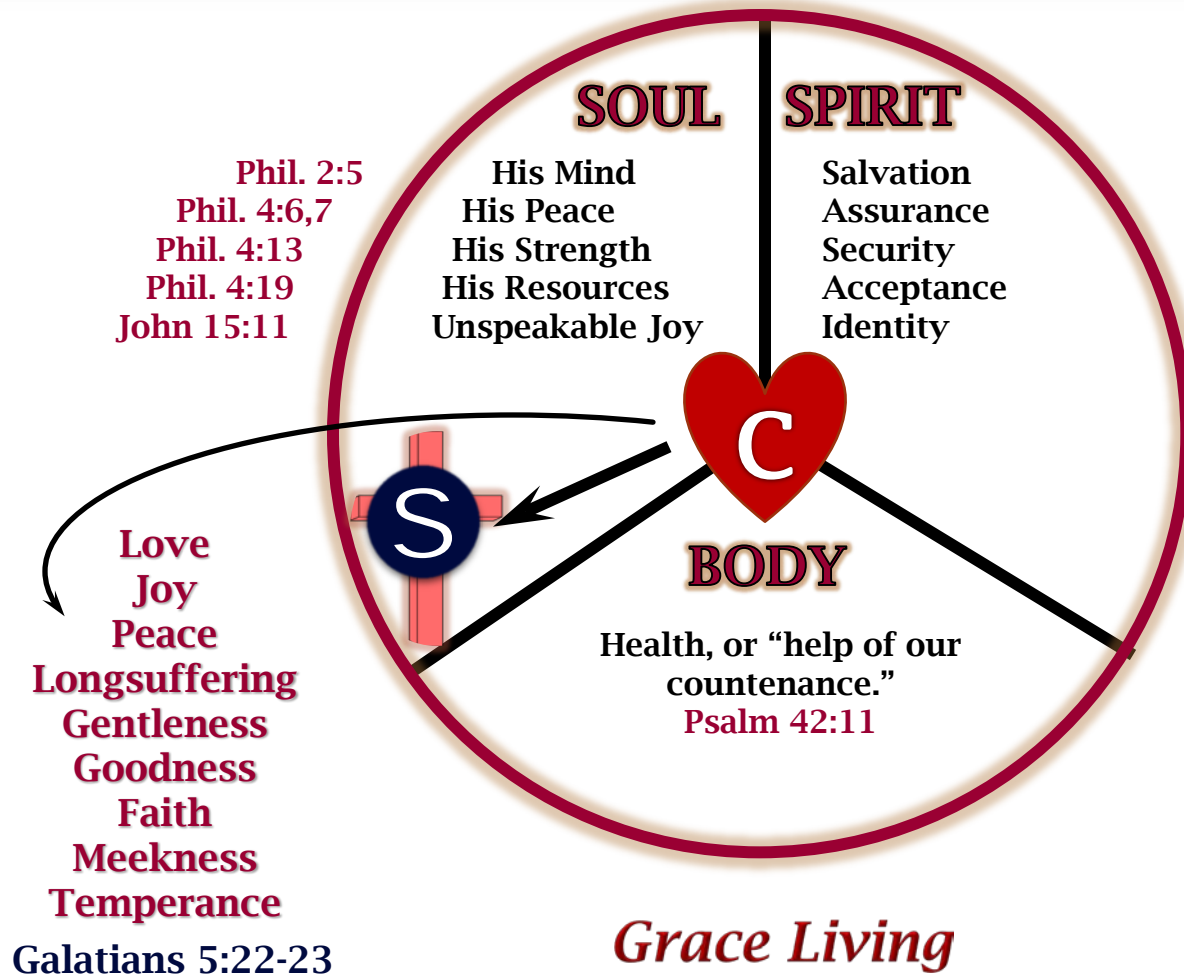
The Nature of Sanctification

Conclusion

- There are two "fountains," not one (spirit and soul). James 3:11
- The believer's *new spirit* is qualitatively different, due to regeneration by God. 1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:24
- There are often stages of spiritual growth for the believer:
Early intuitive abiding in Christ Acts 8:39
Frustration with the flesh under law Rom. 7
A grace awakening Gal. 2:20-3:3
- Sanctification and education go together. 2 Pet. 3:18
- In the New Covenant God writes His moral law on our new heart. 2 Cor. 3:3-6



CHRIST-CENTERED CONDITION



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5. Where Christendom is Deceived



Where Christendom is Deceived

Introduction

Deception will be hindering the church unless we discern:

- The difference between mysticism and spirituality
- The difference between humanistic religion, and God ordained worship (cf. Cain's unaccepted sacrifice, Gen. 4:3-5)
- The difference between imagination and revelation

This discernment relates to the distinction between the soul and spirit in man.



Where Christendom is Deceived

The attributes of the human spirit Prov. 20:27

1. *The faculty of conscience* Rom. 2:14,15

- Adam's original sin was a soulish choice.
- Conscience can be overshadowed by mind, will and emotions.
- Conscience can be distorted by Satanic influence
- Conscience needs to be renewed by fellowship with God. This is provided through union with Christ -- the correct standard of moral knowledge. 1 Cor. 1:30; Matt. 11:29; Heb. 10:22



Where Christendom is Deceived

The attributes of the human spirit Prov. 20:27

2. The faculty of intuition

- Spiritual knowledge is different than natural knowledge.
- God and angels function according to spiritual knowledge.
- Major advances in God's redemption through the centuries would not have occurred through "common sense". Rom. 8:6
- We need the revelation of God within our spirit.
- Much of Christendom functions in knowledge/ philosophy that is religious but not based on—or providing—spiritual life.
- The gospel given to Paul by *revelation* from God. Gal. 1:11,12



Where Christendom is Deceived

The attributes of the human spirit Prov. 20:27

2. The faculty of intuition (continued)

- Even biblical and doctrinal teaching cannot give spiritual life apart from regeneration by the Spirit of God.
- Intellect is important, but secondary to spiritual illumination.
- True knowledge of God is above humanistic religious knowledge. Isaiah 55:8,9
- “Self” has had a corrupting influence on Church ministry and models.
- The way of the Cross is the needed for church revitalization. 2 Cor. 5:16,17,18; Exodus 4:10; Jer. 1:6-9; 2 Cor 1:9



Where Christendom is Deceived

God's special concern is with the spirit of the believer.

- The new birth is required in order to become alive and restored in our spiritual faculties. This is by grace through faith in Christ by the Holy Spirit (John 3:3; Titus 3:5,6). Natural offspring (Acts 17:28,29) become redeemed children of God (John 1:12; Gal. 3:26). Cf. The Prodigal Son
- The regenerated spirit is the seat of true Sonship. Gal. 4:5,6; Rom. 7:6
- New babes in Christ need to grow in maturity. 1 Cor 3:1
- The Christian life is about walking in newness of life, and this involves an ongoing process of learning to give ascendancy to our spirit (with the Holy Spirit) over natural mind, will, emotions, and society. We are not to grieve or quench the spirit /Spirit.
- This includes being broken of natural strength and self sufficiency (2 Cor. 12:9; 13:4; 1 Cor. 1:25-27; Zech. 4:6)



Where Christendom is Deceived

God's special concern is with the spirit of the believer (continued).

- This is a walk of faith in the Spirit. 2 Cor 5:7; Gal 5:16
- Much of church activity and methodology would change if leaders were operating by the “inner man” of the spirit rather than my natural knowledge and resources.
- We need to operate by faith as children of Abraham without relapsing to the natural resources of “Egypt.”

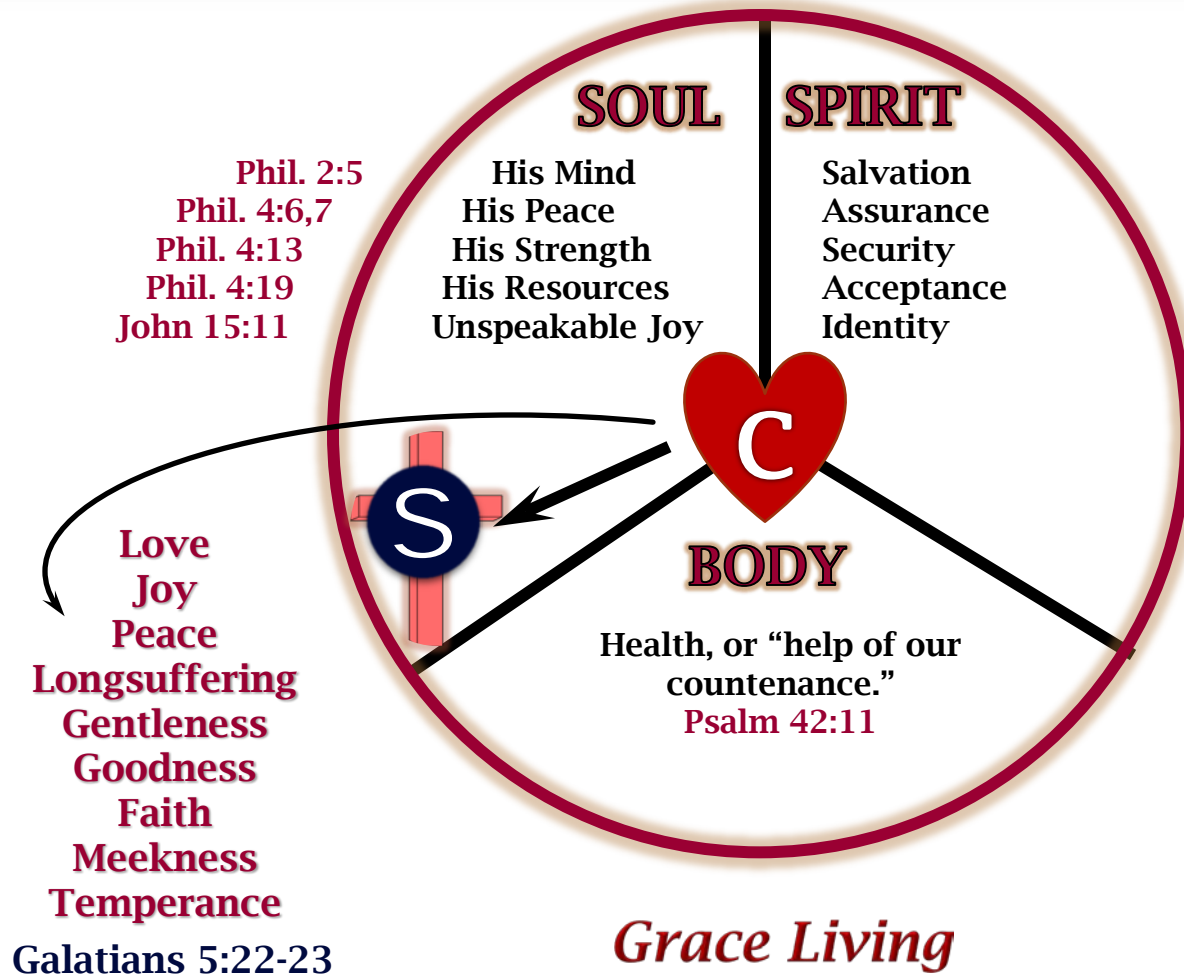
A practical application: evaluate your way of speaking

The effects of the cross and resurrection life are needed for

- Edifying conversation
- Meaningful praying
- Fruitful teaching and preaching. 1 Cor. 2:1-5,12,13



CHRIST-CENTERED CONDITION



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6. The Soul and Deception



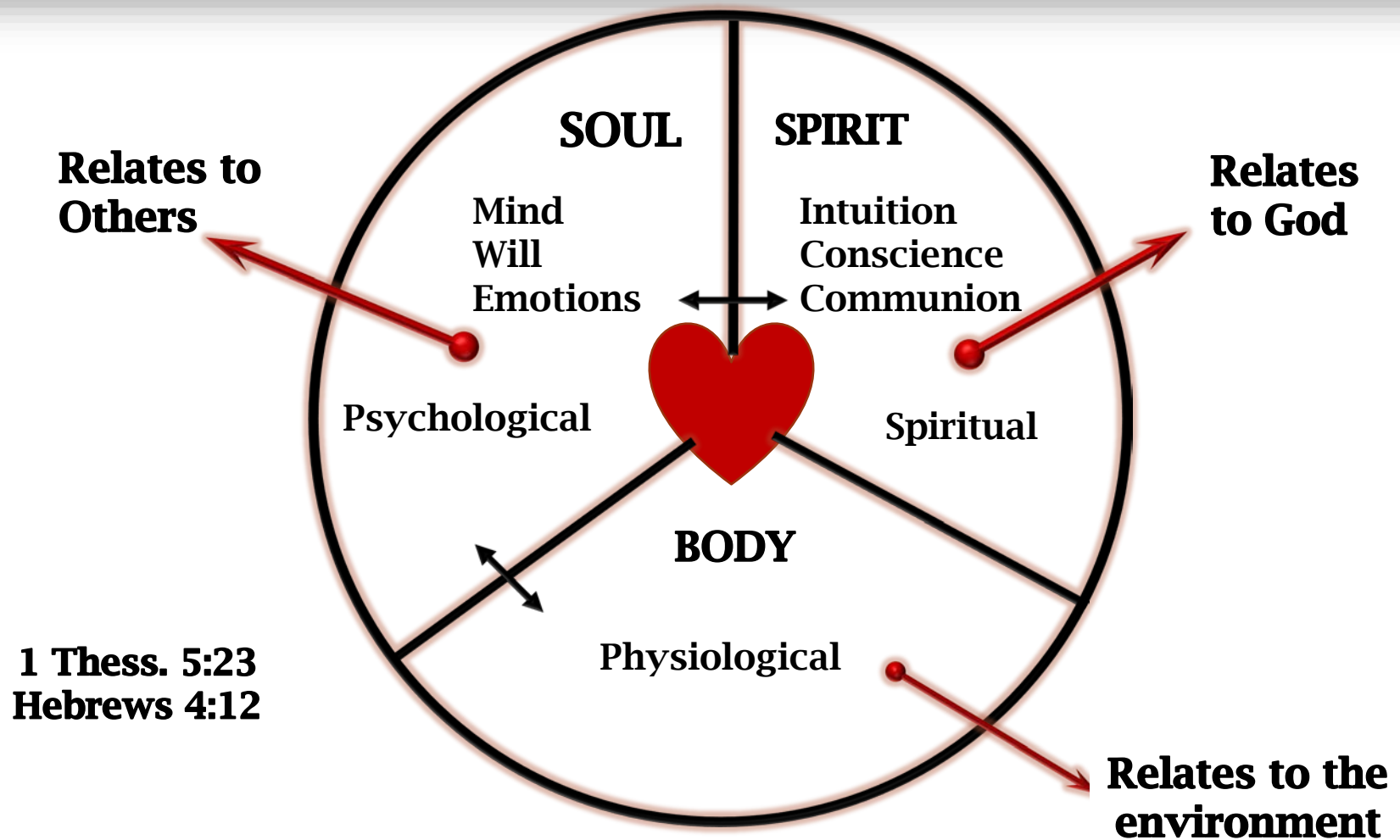
The Soul and Deception

The consequences of soulical independence

- Ever since the Fall of Adam the human race has been deceived. 1 Tim. 4:1; James 3:15; Rev. 12:9; 20:3,10
- The unregenerate person cannot perceive spiritual truth. 1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 4:4; Rom. 8:20
- The original sin was ego centered and soulical. Gen. 3:6
- The Devil counterfeits what is real. 2 Cor. 11:14; Rev. 2:9; 2 Thess. 2:9
- Independent “knowledge of good and evil” gives the Enemy an opportunity to deceive fallen man’s soul. Eph. 4:18; contrast Acts 26:18; 2 Cor. 4:6



The Model of Man



Man -- A Tri-Unity



The Soul and Deception

- The believer is also vulnerable to soulical deception due to the flesh. Examples of a carnal condition:

Stubborn mind

Dominant emotions

Assertive will

Independent intellect

Inferiority complex

- Safeguards: humility, interdependent fellowship, and the Cross
Matt. 18:17; Eph. 5:21; Gal. 2:20
- Many Christian movements have been more soulical than spiritual. 3 John 9



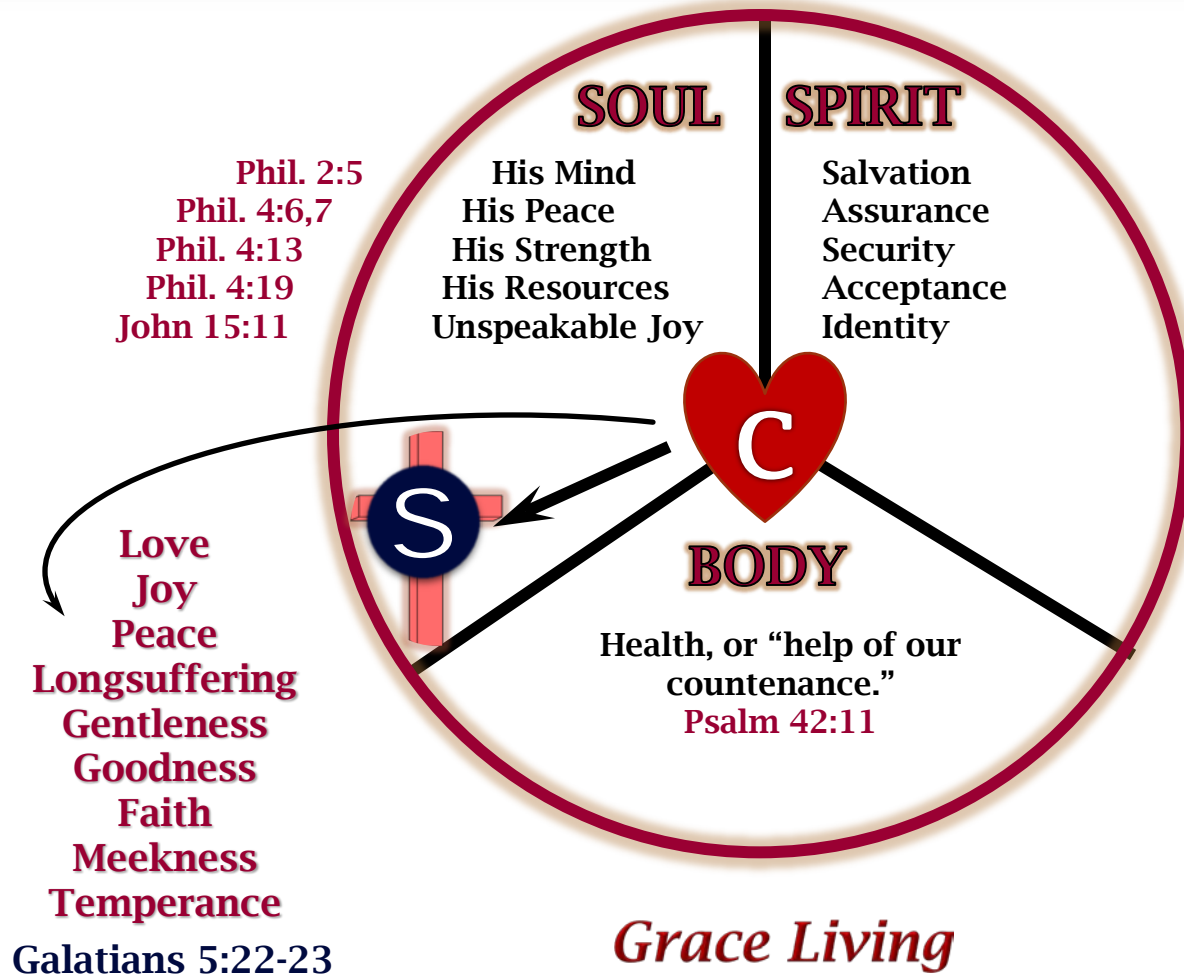
The Soul and Deception

The importance of spiritual understanding

- We need to be spiritual and discerning. Col. 1:9; Phil. 1:9
- We need true knowledge of God. John 17:3; Phil. 3:10
- Avoid self-preoccupation...negatively or positively.
- Keep looking unto Jesus. Heb. 12:2



CHRIST-CENTERED CONDITION



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7. World Domination or Dominion?



World Domination or Dominion?

- God has determined to bring the dominion of this world under the headship of His Son. Eph. 1:9,10; Heb. 2:5
- A biblical worldview recognizes that the kingdom of God is established through the Son of God who also became the Son of Man -- the heir of all things. Acts 10:42; 17:31
- The Enemy's rule in this fallen world is an inferior kingdom that opposes God's realm through jealousy and murder. 1 John 3:12; John 8:44; Acts 7:52; Mark 12:7,8
- The Devil's instrument of attempted domination is *man*.
- [A warning to the church: beware of pride and self-centered motivation!]



World Domination or Dominion?

- The Devil's attempt for world domination will culminate in the last days' Antichrist. 1 John 2:18,22; 4:3; 2 Thess. 2:3,4,9

Observe:

- ❖ The antichrist is a “spirit” (not of God)
 - ❖ The antichrist is the expression of a principle (glorifies man)
 - ❖ The Antichrist is a kind of man (operates by intense ego / soul force)
 - ❖ The Antichrist has a kingdom / world domination in view (his ultimate goal)
- A sign of the times: Godly, famous Christian leaders have been decreasing, yet ungodly dictators have been increasing.



World Domination or Dominion?

- Demonic powers intensify the soul strength of oppressive governmental leaders.
- ❖ Domineering will
- ❖ Shrewd mind
- ❖ Extreme emotional influence
- ❖ Exalting man

The Cross and the crown:

- Spiritual victory comes through Jesus Christ, the divine-human Savior and King. Phil. 2:5-11
- The apostles became broken of soulish independence, but became spiritually powerful after Pentecost. Luke 22; Acts 2



World Domination or Dominion?

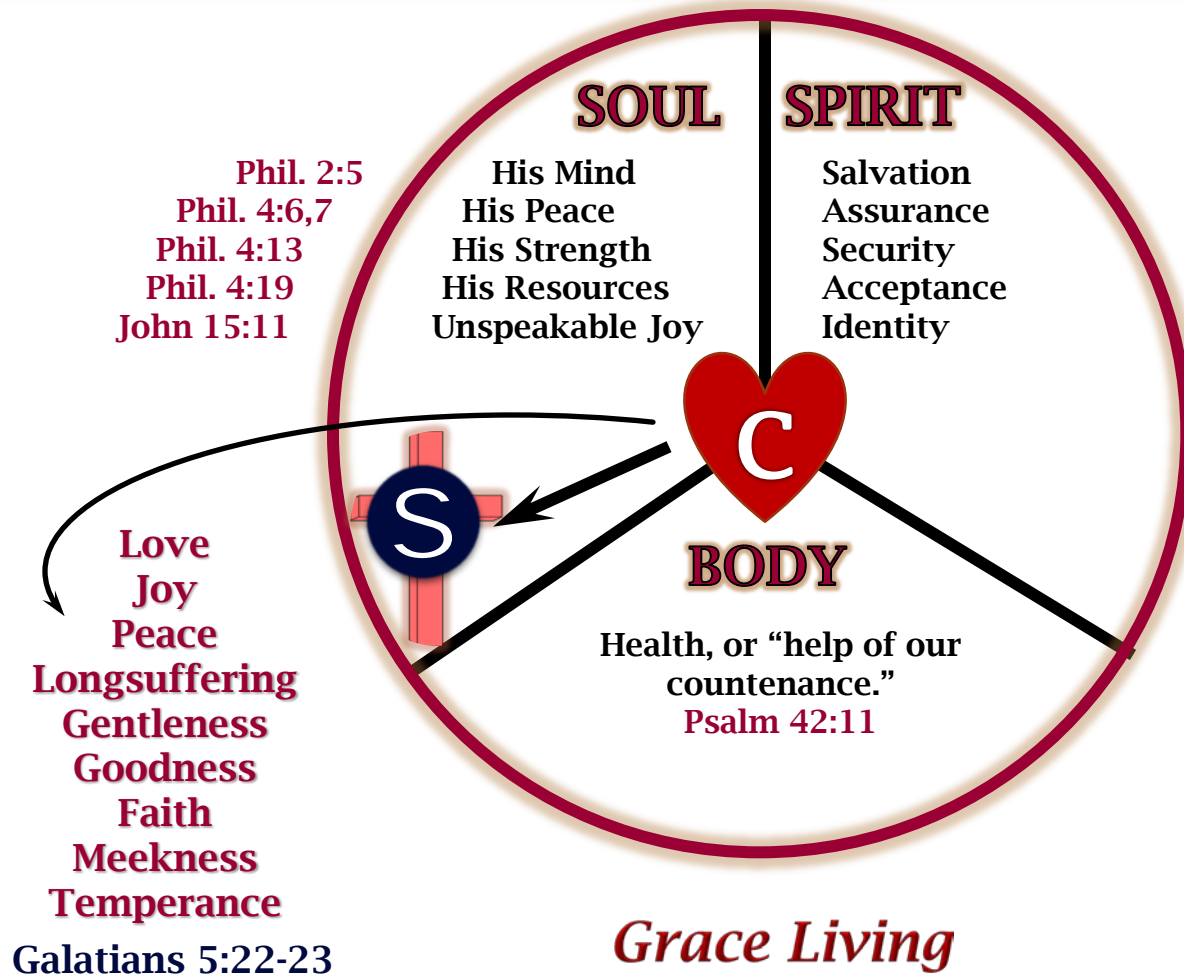
- True believers are baptized into the body of Christ and are transferred into His spiritual kingdom. 1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:13
- This body of Christ is also collectively "one new man." Eph. 1:22,23; 2:15,16)
- The church is to be considered by *heavenly* measurements, not humanistic ones. Eph 3:18; 4:13; 4:7,16

Conclusion

- The Enemy's temporal kingdom operates through soul force and rebellious *domination*.
- God's eternal kingdom through Jesus Christ operates through spiritual power and God ordained *dominion*. Rev. 1:6; 19:1-21



CHRIST-CENTERED CONDITION



What is Man?

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8. The Cross and the New Man



The Cross and The New Man

- A panorama of how God has made the cross of Jesus Christ central in world history and victorious Christian living
- A step by step unfolding of this theme as illustrated in a diagram



The Cross and The New Man

THE CROSS AND THE NEW MAN

"The Day that God
Created Man"
Gen 1:1.

MAN.

- | | | |
|--------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| SPIRIT | 1. Conscience | Spiritual apprehension |
| | 2. Communion (Worship) | |
| | 3. Intuition | |
| SOUL | 1. Reason | Interpretation for human life |
| | 2. Emotion | |
| | 3. Volition | |
| BODY | 1. Flesh | Execution or transaction |
| | 2. Blood | |
| | 3. Bone | |

The relationship to God
by the Spirit:

1. Likeness (Basic "spirit." John 3:6; 6:63)
2. Fellowship (1 Cor. 6:17)
3. Knowledge (Revelation to spirit by intuition faculty (1 Cor. 2:14)
4. Co-operation (1 Cor. 3:9)
5. Dominion (Heb. 2:6)

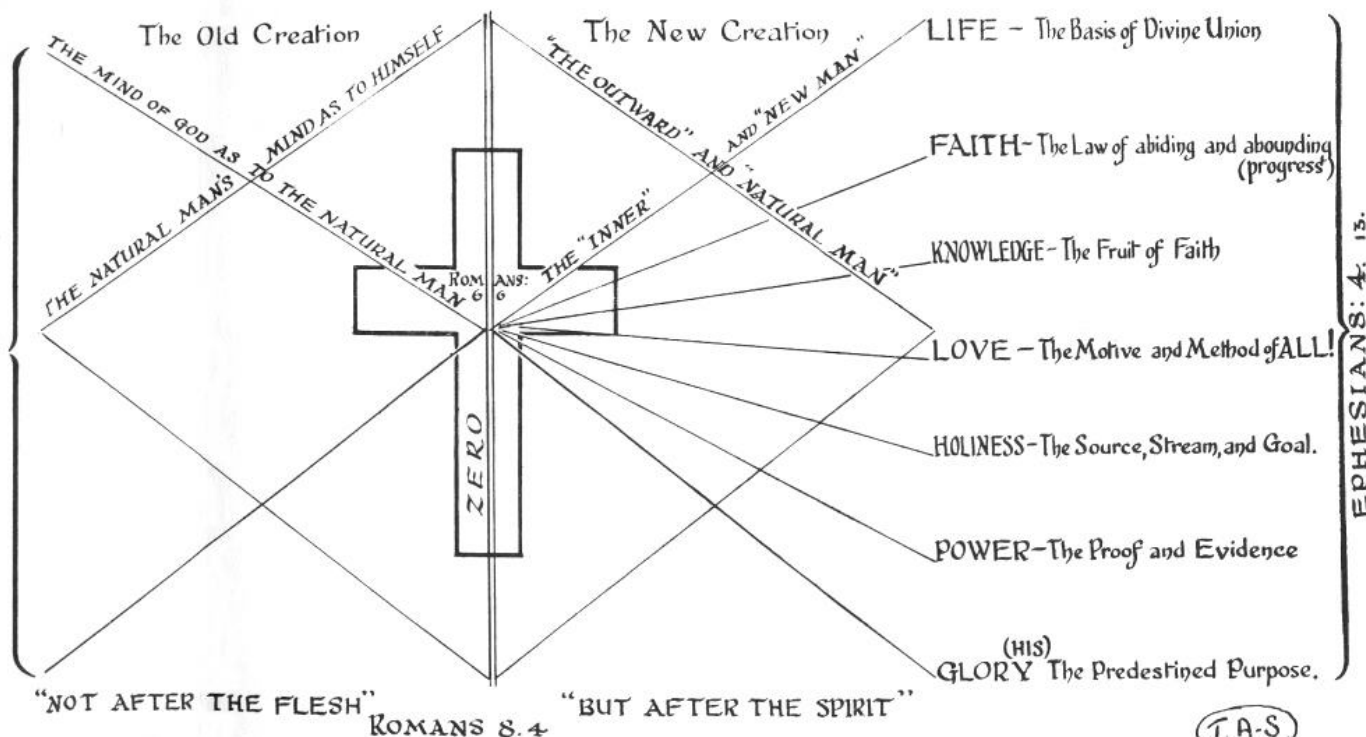
The Fall.

The spirit subjected to the soul.

The soul the sphere of Satanic attack and triumph.

The body the instrument of the soul under influence of Satan.

The spirit in death, the relationships break down at every point. "Death" is basically spirit separation from God.



The Cross and The New Man

God's creation of man:
parts, faculties and purpose



The Cross and The New Man

Man's fivefold relationship
with God by the spirit:

The relationship to God
by the Spirit:

1. Likeness (Basic "spirit")
John. 3. 6; 6. 63)
- 2 Fellowship (1 Cor. 6. 17)
- 3 Knowledge (Revelation
to spirit by intuition
faculty (1 Cor. 2. 14)
4. Co-operation (1 Cor. 3. 9)
5. Dominion (Heb. 2. 6)



The Cross and The New Man

The tragic consequences
of the Fall (Gen. 3)

The Fall.

The spirit
subjected to
the soul.

The soul the
sphere of
Satanic attack
and triumph.

The body the
instrument of
the soul under
influence of
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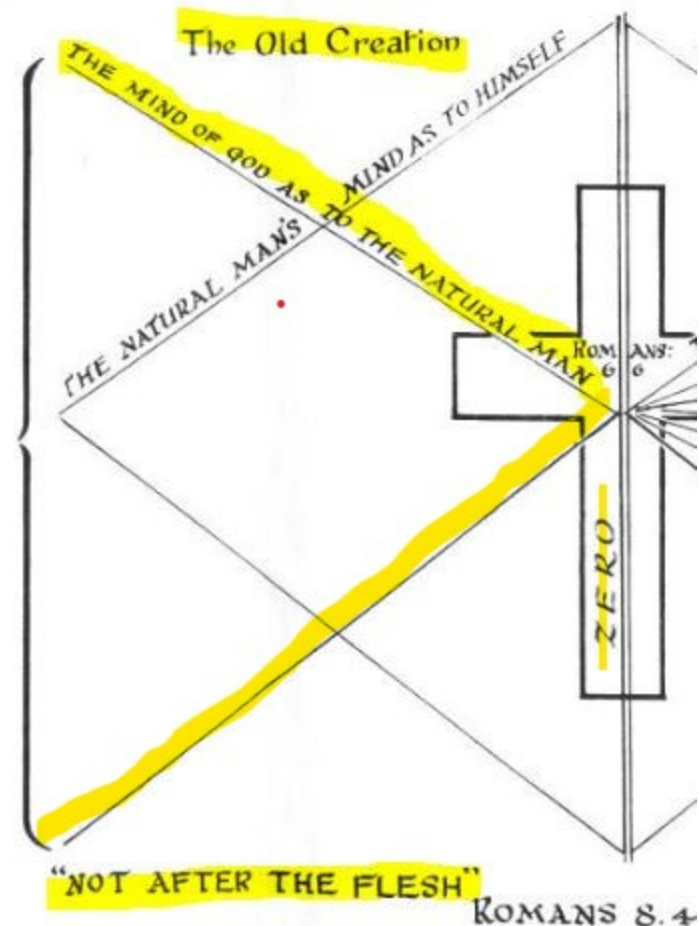
"Death" is
basically
spirit
separation
from God.



The Cross and The New Man

The narrowing lines symbolize the history of fallen mankind according to God's perspective.

1. Man is sinful and under divine judgment.
2. The just consequence – death
3. The perfections of Christ are the only basis for a restored relationship with God.

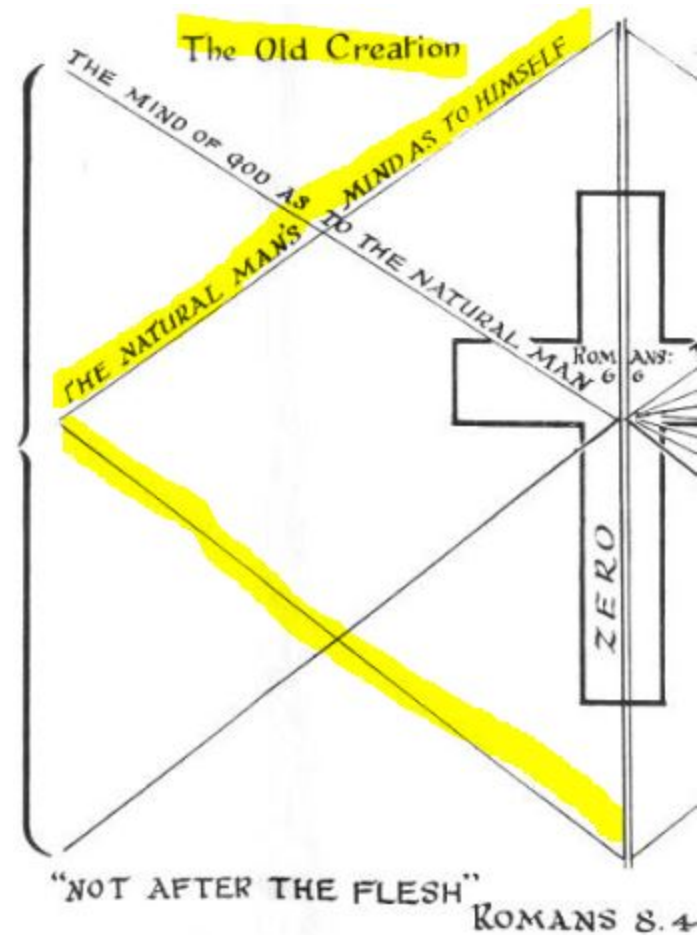


The Cross and The New Man

The *expanding lines* symbolize unsaved man's perspective about life.

His quest for self-realization

- As with Cain (Gen. 4)
- As with Babel (Gen. 11:4)
- As with Babylon (Dan. 4:30)
- As in escalating conflicts (Matt 24:22)

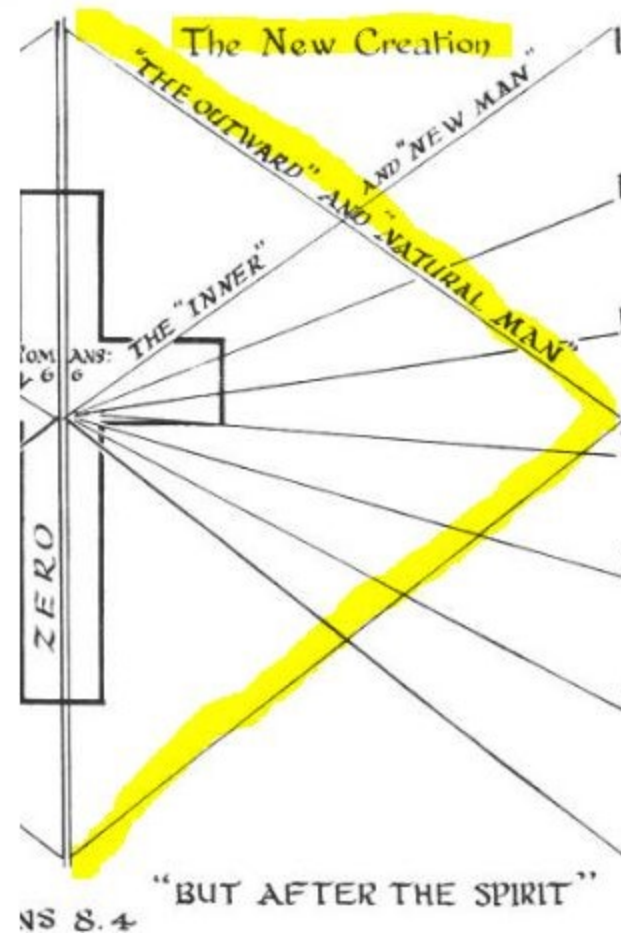


The Cross and The New Man

Sanctification's double process

1. The *narrowing lines* symbolize the process of giving up on natural resources.

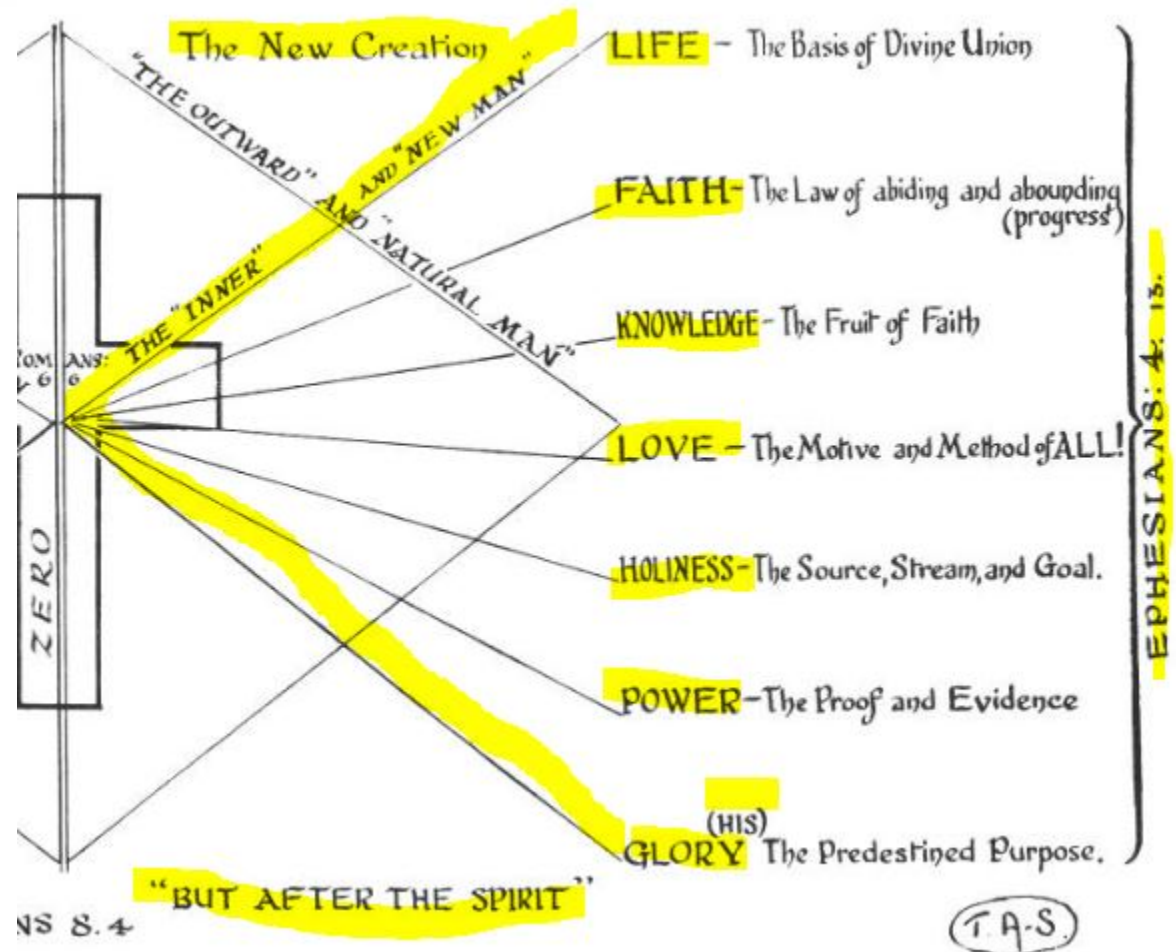
- Reckoning that the old man was crucified and buried with Christ (Rom. 6:6-11)
- Learning that “the flesh profits nothing” (John 6:63).



The Cross and The New Man

Sanctification's
double process

2. The *expanding
lines* symbolize
appropriating
Christ as Life.



What is Man?

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9. The Resurrection (or Spiritual) Body



The Resurrection (Spiritual) Body

Spiritual life

- In the new birth - regeneration John 3:6
- In the Christian life - sanctification John 6:57,58,63
- In the life to come - resurrection Phil. 3:20,21

A contrast

- Christ's resurrection was apart from corruption. Psalm 16:10;
Acts 2:27
- The believer's resurrection will be *after* corruption.
1 Cor. 15:53



The Resurrection (Spiritual) Body

The Spirit of life

- Demonstrated in nature 1 Cor. 15:37-41
- Demonstrated in our threefold deliverance Rom. 8:1,2,11

The mortal / soulical body of man

- "Human soul-life is bound up in the blood." Lev. 17:11
- "The present human body is psycho-physical."
- "Flesh and blood cannot enter the Kingdom..." 1 Cor. 15:50

Christ's resurrection body

- Has no blood Luke 24:39
- Proves His divine sonship Rom. 1:4
- Is a spirit-body 1 Cor. 15:42-49



The Resurrection (Spiritual) Body

The resurrection of the redeemed

- Our bodily resurrection is the "consummation" of spiritual life. Rom. 8:19,23,29
- Our comprehension of the afterlife is limited. Luke 20:35

The destiny of the lost

- The lost will have a resurrection to Judgment. Dan. 12:2
- Satan and demons hate resurrection. Heb. 2:14,15



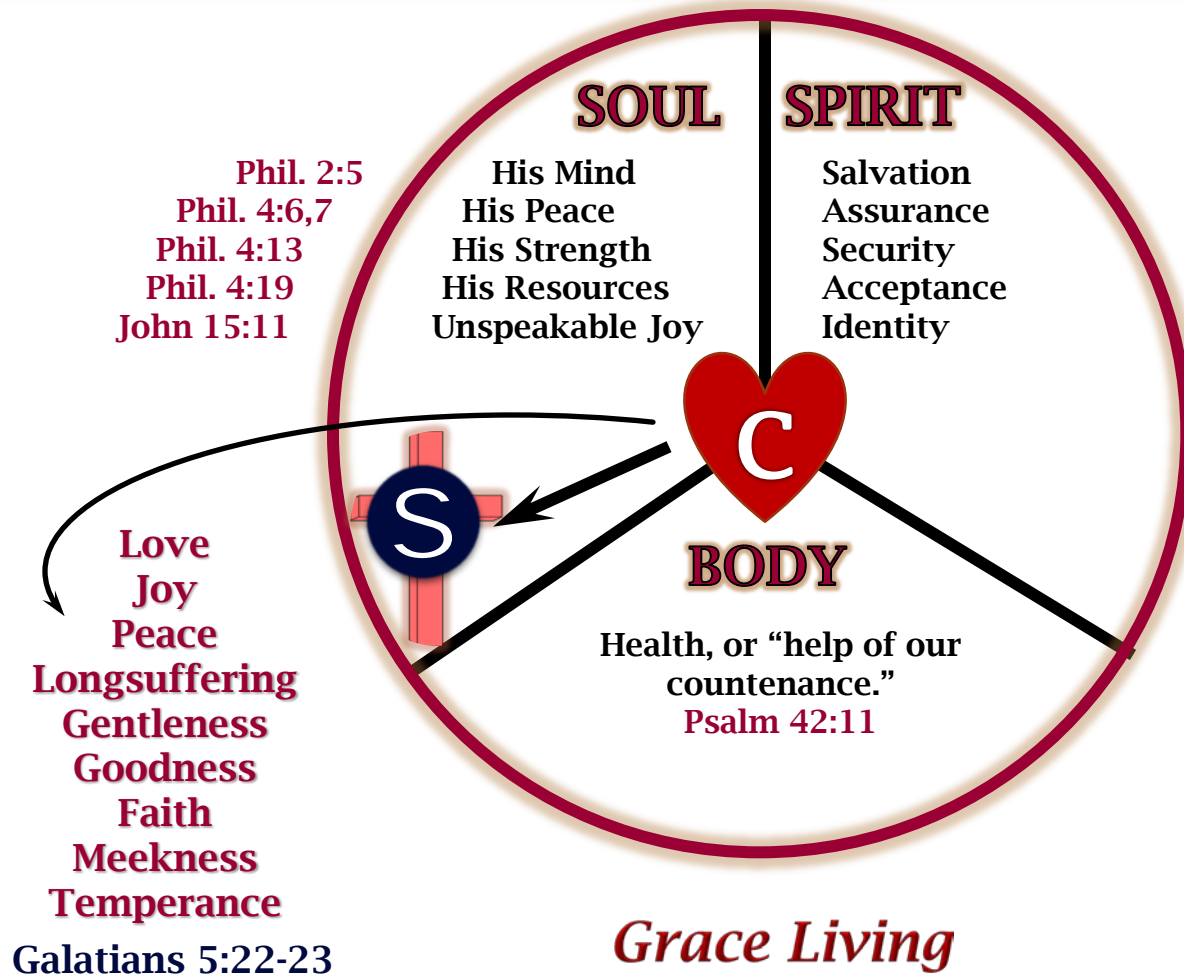
The Resurrection (Spiritual) Body

Ultimate spirituality

- Is not of the soul, but based on "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col. 1:27
- Is promised by the Holy Spirit! 2 Cor. 1:21,22
- Is empowered by Christ's resurrection life! Phil. 3:10



CHRIST-CENTERED CONDITION



What is Man?

By T. Austin-Sparks

10. The Soul, The Spirit and The Evil Spiritual Powers



Man's Soul and Spirit re Spirital Warfare

Introduction

"In the Fall, the powers of evil entered into alliance with the soul of man by his complicity with Satan...Those powers of evil take full advantage of any undue projecting of the soul in order that they may further the interests of Satan's false kingdom ...

[However] the innermost reality of new birth and spiritual union with God is something much deeper than the soul and all soul-sense.

["Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith..." 1 Pet. 5:8,9a



Man's Soul and Spirit re Spirital Warfare

Demonic oppression

Physical and psychological turmoil may be a symptom of, or opportunity for, demonic oppression. Sometimes including:

- *"Neurasthenia" (an outdated term): "an ill-defined medical condition characterized by lassitude, fatigue, headache, and irritability, associated chiefly with emotional disturbance."*
- A sense of another hostile personality
- Suicidal impulses

These afflictions are not limited to the unregenerate (unsaved).



Man's Soul and Spirit re Spirital Warfare

Believers with these ailments may despair due to “the lie that their own soul-life is the criterion of being safe in God; whereas, for the child of God, Christ is the criterion.”

"Be the most self-assured, self-complacent, self-possessed, self-composed person imaginable, and you are not necessarily therefore a child of God.

“Be the most pressed, harassed, tortured, devil-assailed person possible, but this need not alter the fact that you are a child of God.”



Man's Soul and Spirit re Spirital Warfare

The difference between demon domination and demon possession

A dominant soul condition (reason, emotion or will) may lead to demon dominance. This in turn may enable supernatural wit and perception.

The tragic case of Judas Iscariot:

- A pattern of stealing money (a stronghold)
- "Satan entered into Judas" (Luke 22:3) (possession)

"Satan's supreme and final object is to capture for possession the whole man—spirit, soul and body."



Man's Soul and Spirit re Spirital Warfare

The Key to Spiritualism

An evil spirit can relate to an unregenerate man through the man's spirit.

"Spiritualists believe that [departed] spirits can communicate with the living through mediums, often during séances, and that these interactions can offer guidance and healing." (Internet summary)

Deception - a demon pretending to be a departed loved one
2 Cor. 11:14

[1 Tim. 4:1 - "Now the [Holy] Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons..."]



Man's Soul and Spirit re Spirital Warfare

The Deepest Reality in the Child of God

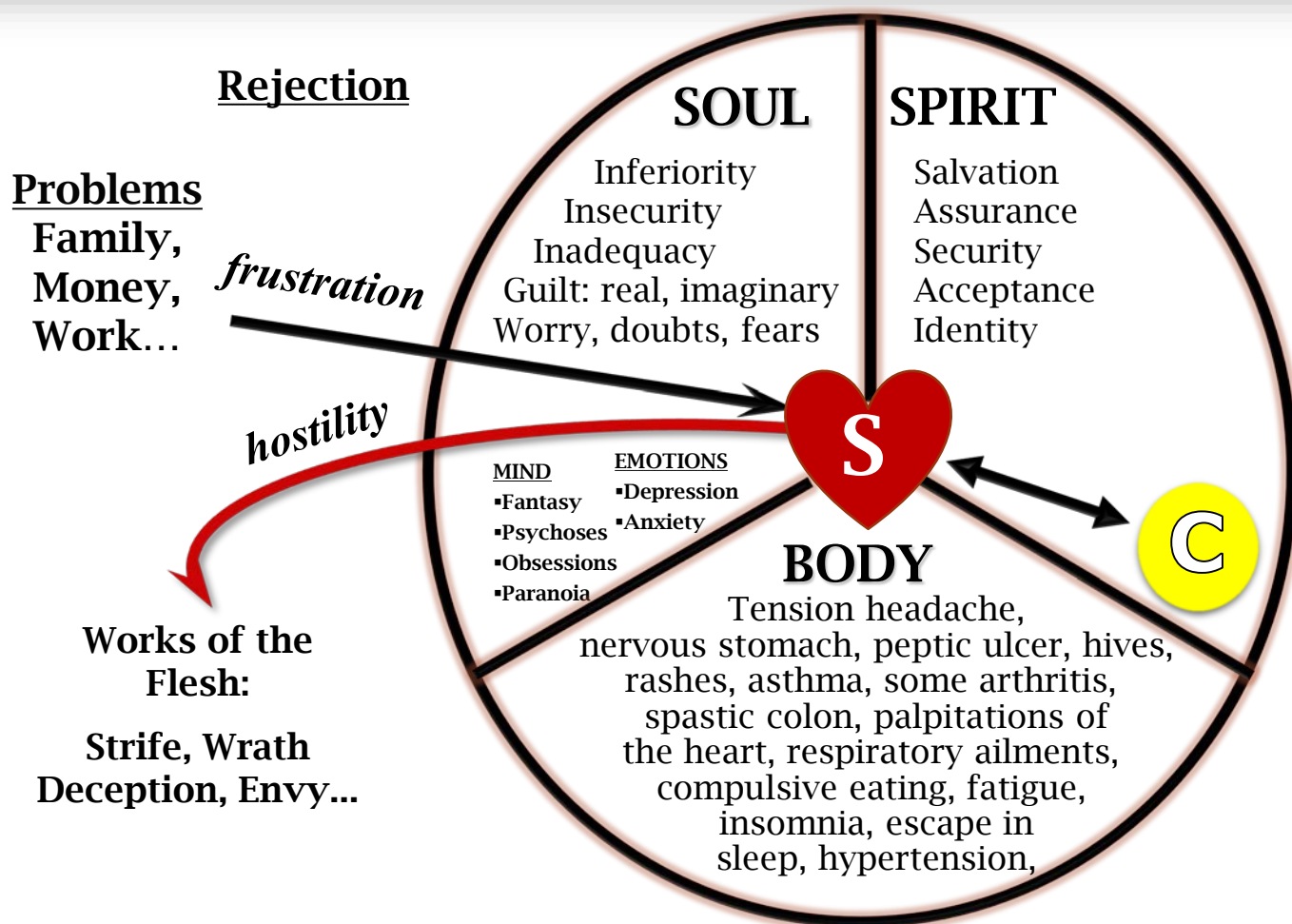
New birth consolation: "The renewing of our spirit and the imparting to it of eternal life, with the Holy Spirit and sonship, is far deeper ... than our physical or our soulical life. Unless we hold on to that we have no ground of victory."

[The Holy Spirit has "sealed" the believer in his spirit.
2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13;4:30]

The most harassed believer can hold on to grace-based assurance. "What is left is God, His Word and the fact that they have put their trust in Him. The real battle of faith is joined here. Not what we are, but what He is! Not what we feel, but His facts."



Carnal Christian Condition



“Doing in Order to Be” Living Under Law

Man's Soul and Spirit re Spirital Warfare

Spiritual Service or Warfare

Satan usurped access as the "god of this world" through the Fall.
Gen. ch. 3; John 12:31;14:30; 2 Cor. 4:4

Spiritual warfare is a reality for believers in this age. Eph. 6:10-18

Note the sphere, nature, and hierarchy of these fallen angels (some of whom are already imprisoned in Hades). 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6



Man's Soul and Spirit re Spirital Warfare

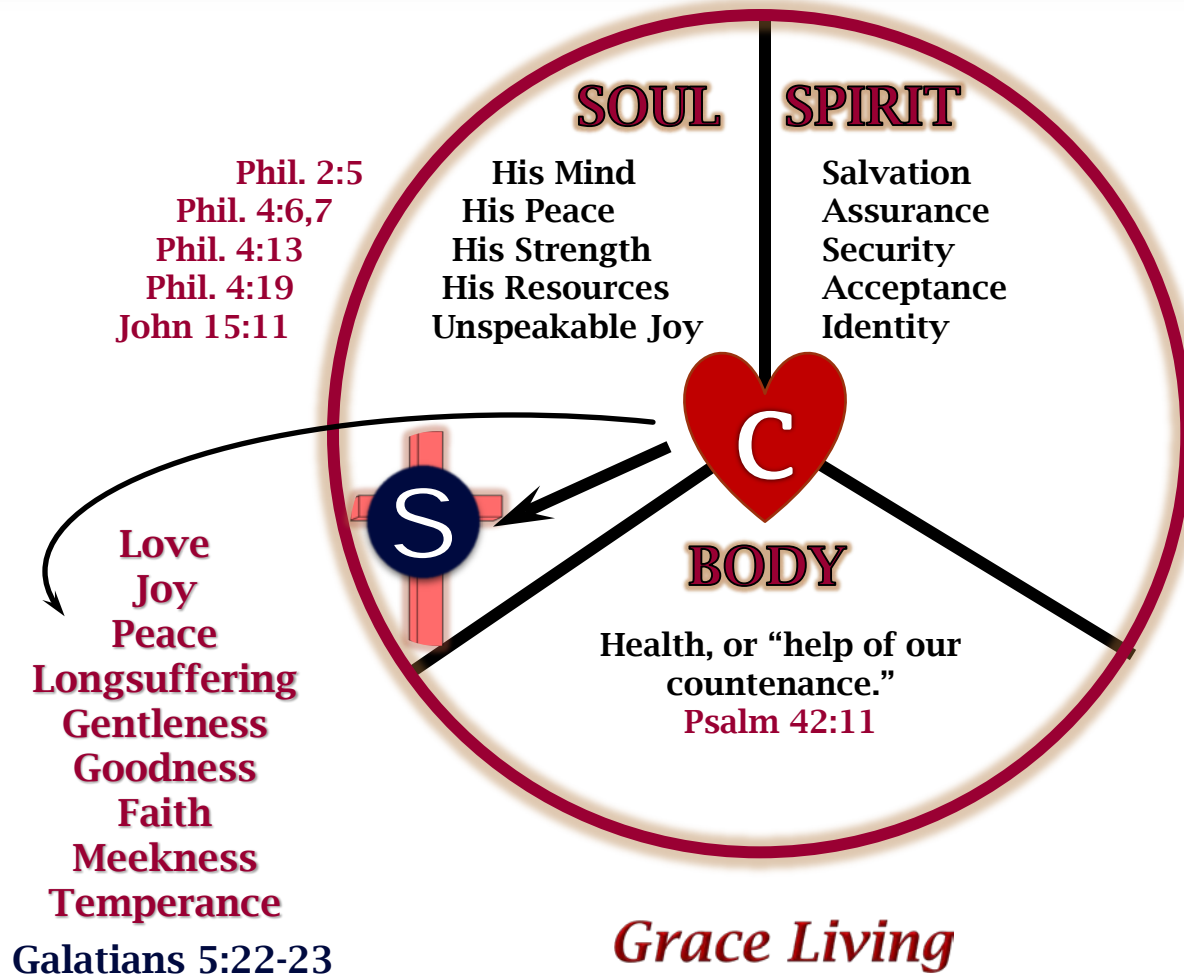
Conclusion

"Let us emphasize that this spiritual union with God in the super-cosmic significance of the Cross of Christ means that our supreme effectiveness is in the spiritual realm ... Seated together with Him 'in the heavenlies' as to our spirit we are to learn to reign in that greater "kingdom of the heavens" ... whereby the impact of His victory and sovereignty shall be registered among and upon the "principalities and powers", etc., and their domination paralysed, and ultimately destroyed.

["You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." 1 John 4:4]



CHRIST-CENTERED CONDITION



What is Man?

By T. Austin-Sparks

11. The Spirit Himself



The Holy Spirit Himself

God's design is for the Holy Spirit to have dominion in our life, guiding our spirit, governing our soul, with our body a yielded vessel.

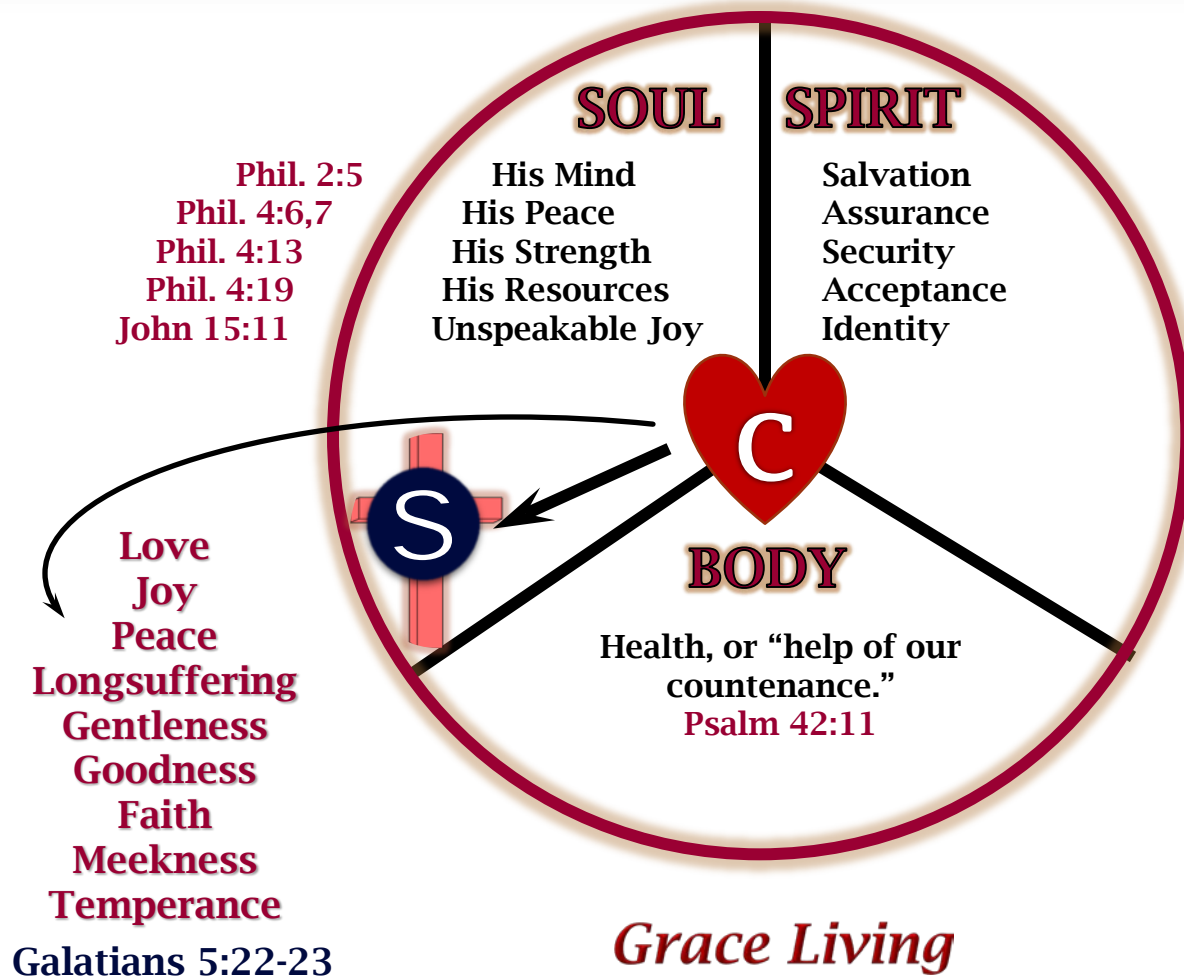
Spirituality is not enough; we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Eph. 5:18

"He is the 'Spirit of life', 'light', 'truth', 'wisdom', 'grace', 'supplication', 'power', and 'understanding'; and indeed of all that God is for us in Christ Jesus."

The Holy Spirit regenerates man's spirit through the new birth. John 3:3,6



The Spirit-Filled Condition



The Holy Spirit Himself

The human spirit is the "organ" that has communion with the Holy Spirit. Rom. 8:16

- As an eye is given sight, look to the Lord. Prov. 20:27; Psalm 32:8
- As an ear is given hearing, listen to the Lord. Psalm 40:6; Rev. 2:11

Man's spirit is like the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle, but the glory of God needs to preside there. Exodus 40:34

Respect the corporate Body of Christ, God's temple.
1 Cor. 3:16; Eph. 4:3,4



The Holy Spirit Himself

The Holy Spirit exalts Jesus Christ. John 16:14

"Everything, from new birth to glorification, was to have Christ as its power, its nature, and its goal. He, and He alone, was to be the resource for living, being, and serving."

As the Son of Man, Jesus always submitted to the Father and did His wondrous works by the power of the Holy Spirit. He never acted independently. John 5:19,30

Likewise, we are to abide in Him in submission to God, empowered by the Holy Spirit. John 15:10



The Holy Spirit Himself

“For all this—
the setting aside of all of self in every way and consideration,
and, the enthroning of Christ as absolute Lord—
the Holy Spirit came.

The *soul* is the seat of the human ego,
the *spirit* is the sanctuary of the risen and exalted Christ,
and there He has to rule all that is personal in us,
so that in all things He may have the pre-eminence.
This is the all-embracing work of the Holy Spirit.”

To conclude this book, let's pray Ephesians 3:14-19...



Based on the book, *What is Man?* By T. Austin-Sparks (1888-1971)
British evangelist, Bible teacher and author
www.Austin-Sparks.net

Wheel diagrams adapted from *Handbook to Happiness*,
by Charles R. Solomon (Tyndale Publishers)

Presented by John Woodward
Weekly online Bible study, 2025
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