

1 Peter Series

Lesson #063

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Dean Bible Ministries

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THE WAR AGAINST THE SOUL

1 PETER 2:11-12



1ST PETER

LIVING IN LIGHT
OF ETERNITY

1 Pet. 2:11, “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

1 Pet. 2:12, “having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

What is “the flesh”?

1. The flesh of a living creature
2. Used to refer to the physical body
3. Used to refer to the material body in contrast to the immaterial nature
4. Used with reference to the weakness or sinfulness of man, the capacity to sin, the nature of sin, the sinful passions and affections

Fleshly and fleshy, *sarkikos*, that which pertains to the sin nature, the desires and lust patterns of the sin nature.

What is “the flesh”?

The Scripture uses the word “flesh” to describe the sinful capacity, the corruption which sin has brought, upon the human race and all of the desires, thoughts, actions, and trends which orient each of us away from God and His perfect righteousness.

1 Pet. 2:11, “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,”

**σαρκικός *sarkikos*
gen fem plur
material, worldly**

**ἐπιθυμία *epithumia*
gen fem plur
desire, lust**

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**ἐπιθυμία *epithumia*
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desire, lust**

**στρατεύω *strateuō*
pres mid indic 3 plur
to serve as a soldier; to wage war**

1 Pet. 2:11, “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,”

**ψυχή *psuchē*
gen fem sing
soul, self, inner
life, the life**

1. The human being is comprised of three components: a physical body made from the chemicals of the soil, a soul, and a human spirit.

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Heb. 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.”

μερισμός; *merismos*, *division*, *partition*

1. The human being is comprised of three components: a physical body made from the chemicals of the soil, a soul, and a human spirit.

1 Thess. 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.”

2. The physical human body is vitally important and significant as the home for the soul, but also as necessary to the soul and part of the *imago dei*.

2A The process was a two-step process:

First, the body was formed

Gen. 2:7, “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

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יצר *yatzar*

qal wawConsec 3 masc sing

to form, fashion; the emphasis is on the careful forming or shaping of something from already existing materials

Isa. 43:1,

**“But now, thus says the LORD, who created
[bara] you, O Jacob,
And He who formed [yatzar] you, O Israel:
‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have
called you by your name; You are Mine.’ ”**

Isa. 29:16, “Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; for shall the thing made say of him who made [*asah*] it, ‘He did not make me’? Or shall the thing formed [*yatzar*] say of him who formed [*yatzar*] it, ‘He has no understanding’?”

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First, the body was formed

Gen. 2:7, “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

עֶפְרָא *‘āpār* dust, earth, ground, the chemicals of the soil which God had already created, knowing that He would use that soil to form the human body.

Job 4:19, “How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed before a moth?”

Job 10:9, “Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay. And will You turn me into dust again?”

Isa. 45:9, “Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’ Or shall your handiwork say, ‘He has no hands’?”

2 Cor. 4:7, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

2B Second, the immaterial part was created and imparted.

Gen. 2:7, “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

נָפַח *nafach*

qal wawConsec 3

masc sing

to breathe

נְשָׁמָה *neshamah*

comm fem sing constr

breath

Isa. 2:22; 42:5; 57:16

Gen. 2:7, “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

נְשָׁמָה *neshamah*

comm fem sing

constr

breath

Isa. 2:22; 42:5; 57:16

חַיִּים *chai-1*

comm masc plur abs

life

Plural of

intensification or

excellence.

NOT “lives”

cf., Job 33:4, “the breath of the Almighty gives me life (sing.)”

Gen. 2:7, “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being [*nephesh hayah literally, a living soul*].

“Soul” is often used as a synonym for “life” in the Scripture.

**“The foggy night when 649 souls were lost” from the Isle of Wight *County Press* online
Thus, “living soul” may be translated simply as “alive.”**

2. The physical human body is vitally important and significant as the home for the soul, but also as necessary to the soul and part of the *imago dei*.

Genesis 1:26, “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ ”

Gen. 1:27, “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

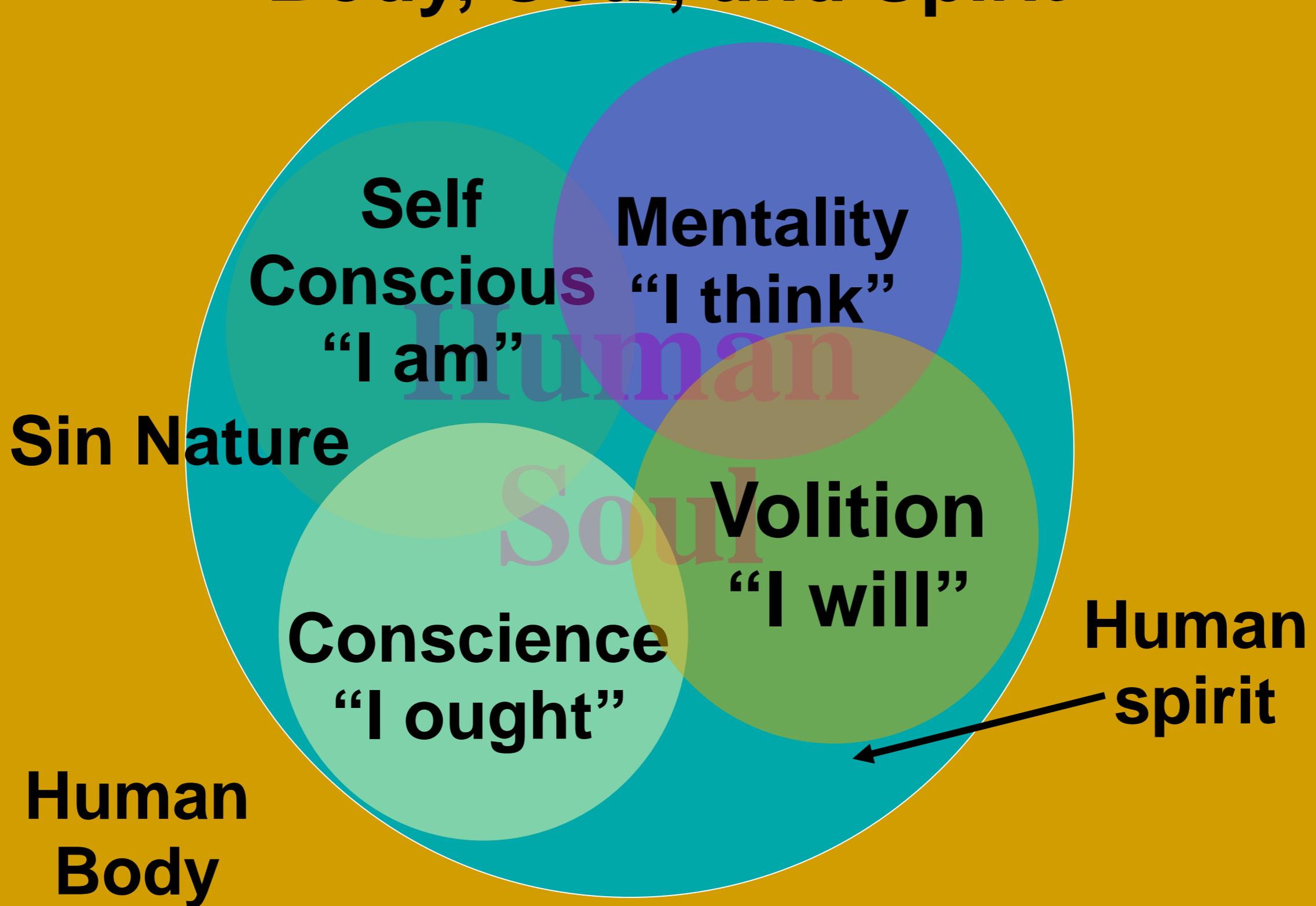
The Three Parts of a Human Being: Body, Soul, and Spirit



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3. Yet, in the fall man's nature became corrupt; yet the *imago dei* though corrupt, defaced, deformed, was not eradicated.

Gen. 9:6, “Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.”

3. Yet, in the fall man's nature become corrupt; yet the *imago dei* though corrupt, defaced, deformed, was not eradicated.

1 Cor. 11:7, “For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.”

“Two exceedingly important truths emerge from the vast array of theological writings regarding that image in which man was created, namely, (a) that fallen man bears the inalienable image of God, and (b) that man is injured by the fall to the extent that only redeeming grace can rescue him. Both of these truths are deeply embedded in the Scriptures regardless of any seeming contradictions they may present. Neither truth may be modified or surrendered. It would be easy for uninstructed minds to declare this whole discussion concerning the image a mere battle of words and quite void of practical value; but it is here that the true ground is discovered for Anthropology, Soteriology, and Eschatology.”

~Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, 2:169