**AN ESSAY ON THE SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY**

This essay hopes to weave a solid scripturally based theme of how the body, soul and spirit “function” in God’s word. As a matter of course, I’ll tie into the subjects of the Book of Life and the Reprobate doctrine.

The mystery of the supernatural (the spiritual world we cannot see) is hard for man to comprehend but the bible gives us a solid sense of a “working” functionality. What happens when a soul gets saved? When we die? How do the soul, the spirit, and the body interact with each other? We cannot fully comprehend the spiritual but through scripture and comparing all in totality we can draw a functioning picture of how things work by harmonizing all scripture. This essay will use illustrations that attempt to mesh all scripture concerning these deep subjects so one must keep that in mind at all times that illustrations are not a perfect representation but a tool to illustrate the “functionality” of the spiritual through the likeness of examples put forth by man.

**MAN IS A TRIUNE BEING**

We know God as the “Godhead” existing in 3 persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost otherwise known as the “trinity”. There is not much dispute in this and if one does not believe these they probably also reject the idea of a triune man. The bible clearly states we exist as a triune being containing a spirit, soul, and body:

1 Thessalonians 5: And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**THE NEW TESTAMENT ALWAYS SHINES A LIGHT ON THE OLD AND IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE FOR DEVELOPING DOCTRINE.**

This is a biblical principle that is abused or ignored by most dispensational Pastors (referred to as “dipsticks” from here on out because it is easier to type). If my essay primarily only uses the Old Testament, I probably have a big problem. I do use Old Testament passages to support doctrine but most everything is anchored in the New Testament.

**GOD USES SYNECDOCHE THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE** [Synecdoche Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/synecdoche)

Synecdoche is a literary device in which a part of something refers to the whole. It’s a sort of slang device. For instance, if I say ‘Nice threads you are wearing” I’m referring to the whole outfit and not just the threads that are part of the outfit. Or “nice wheels” I’m referring to the whole vehicle in general. Or “get your backside over here young man” I’m referring to the whole person not just his backside.

Only a saved person with the indwelled Holy Spirit can discern and understand the bible particularly the goodly amount of synecdoche (in addition to interpreting definition of a word through context) that exists throughout the bible. The word “soul” falls into this category. The soul can refer to the whole person. An example of “souls” being used to simply refer to people:

Exodus 1:5 And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls: for Joseph was in Egypt already.

And yes, clearly we can also know that those 70 people have 70 actual spiritual eternal souls, but the main point was that “souls” in this instance is simply referring to a group of people using “synecdoche”.

“Soul” of course can refer to the part of us as a triune being that is eternal and goes to heaven or hell. Determining “which is which” is the job of the indwelled Holy Spirit guiding the Christian to the right solution based on comparison of scripture with scripture. Despite having 501 instances of the words “soul” or the plural “souls” in the KJV, determining what each means is not as easily seen as one might think. It is easy to take an OT verse and make it all about the eternal “soul”, the part of the triune being that goes to heaven or hell when in reality it is referring to the “self” or the person or God is using this word as a carnal thing to illustrate the spiritual. Here is an example that would easily confuse the unsaved:

Exodus 30:15

The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.

Is this passage speaking of the 1/3rd triune being of man that is eternal? No, because we know an atonement of our eternal soul cannot be bought with mammon. If we see every time the word “atonement” is used throughout the OT, most of the subject of the atonement is for “him” or “them” clearly just referring to people. But every once in a while God mixed in the word “soul” or “souls” in place of “him” or “them” to be able to begin to teach the overall theme of salvation of our eternal soul by the sacrificing and atoning blood of the coming Christ.

God is teaching to the Children of Israel (and us) ultimately our actual eternal souls must be atoned for by the blood of the lamb of God. This is why sometimes he throws in the word “soul(s)” in all the many “atonement” verses you’ll find in the first 5 books of the bible. I realize I am making a generalization, but the concept is important to remember.

[ATONEMENT IN THE BIBLE (kingjamesbibleonline.org)](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/search.php?q=atonement&page=1&order=1&bsec=&s=&qte=)

**GOD USES THE CONCEPT OF DUAL, TRIPLE MEANINGS (INTERPRETATIONS) THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE**

The bible is deep. Oftentimes the bible speaks to us using a few words but conveying 2 or even 3 meanings or a “shadow” meaning. Let me give you an example using the most abused verse by dispensationalists in the bible. Romans 11:

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

This verse can be said to have multiple meanings but not in the way the dipsticks use it. Here is my take: The primary interpretation is Paul quoting the OT specifically Isaiah 45 and 59 combined. We know he is quoting scripture because he said “as it is written”. And as often happens in quoting OT scripture it sometimes is a simplified combination of 2 verses such as in Isaiah. So searching the OT we can find the relevant passages to glean the primary meaning:

45: 17 But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.

59: 20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

59: 21 As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

The Apostle Paul is simply ending Romans 9 – 11 capping off the theme throughout those three chapters that it was always promised by God that the New Testament was coming. So Romans 11:26 “all Israel shall be saved” is referring to all of spiritual Israel – the remnant Paul spoke of in the beginning of chapter 11 - who continues on in the New Covenant which of course includes Paul. The great thing is the NT now sheds solid light on those OT verses.

“Saved” is talking about eternal salvation of the soul. The remnant of Jews that believed continues on in the NT, the entire believing remnant, “all”.

We can also start to apply a dual and triple meaning through Paul’s choice of words and the word “saved” comes to mean in a physical sense rather than eternal salvation of the soul. “all Israel shall be saved” is also a “shadow” of the rapture in which all believing Christians (ALL of spiritual Israel, i.e. all Christians) are all saved (which can also mean reserved) at the First Resurrection when we all get our new bodies. Certainly physical salvation occurs at the rapture (or we would all die at the hands of the Antichrist).

We can even extrapolate further by applying this to Armageddon when Jesus Christ comes on the white horse and all the believers that came to be saved during God’s wrath period will be saved (physically) again.

And if one wants we can make a 4th shadow meaning, by interpreting “all Israel shall be saved” at the final battle of Gog and Magog.

Yet overall, the primary interpretation of Romans 11:26 and 27 is clearly Paul quoting scripture about the New covenant which is Jesus Christ and the “saved” is eternal salvation of the soul for those that believe, the whole of the remnant of Jews that believed on Christ.

The important rule of thumb of interpreting dual and triple meanings is that all interpretations cannot conflict with each other. In the example above, I cannot use Romans 11:27 and claim yet another covenant will be established at the millennial kingdom. This is taking the concept of dual and triple meanings too far. Yet this is what the dipsticks do all the time and to some their own damnation.

**TRIUNE DOCTRINE: THE SPIRIT (OF MAN)**

(From here on out, unless specified, the use of the words “soul”, “body”, or “spirit” will be referring to the triune aspects of man and not in a literary use of SYNECDOCHE. I will also use lower case to indicate the spirit of man and not the Holy Spirit. This will limit possible confusion)

The spirit that is given to all humans is also known as the “breath of life”. Four times in Genesis God uses the term “breath of life”:

Genesis 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 soul

Clearly Adam was created from the dust of the earth, the physical. God made his body. At some point when Adam was lying there he also by now had a soul within. But Adam was not yet alive until God breathed into him and he became a living soul. We can see that the “breath of life” is a different aspect of the soul and body. Without this breath of life, the eternal soul and carnal fleshly body are considered “not alive” or we can simply say dead.

If we compare scripture we can also see that the “breath of life” can also mean “spirit of life”

Revelation 11:11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

Additionally from Genesis we can also see that animals have the “breath of life”. In other words animals also have a “spirit” given to them by God.

Genesis 6:17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

Genesis 7:15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.

Genesis 7:22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

We can clearly see that without the breath/spirit (of life) the flesh dies. We can also see through Adam, that without the spirit, the soul is not “alive”. Therefore we can begin to understand that the spirit of man is given to us by God and is taken away by God and is the controlling aspect of both our fleshly body and eternal soul.

Also through the simple passages above we can see that the spirit has 2 functionalities: it makes alive the eternal soul and keeps alive the flesh. (As concerning animals, which have no souls, animals physically die when the spirit of life given to them by God leaves their body). This dual concept that the spirit has a link to keeping both the eternal soul and mortal flesh alive is important to remember when talking about the spirit of man. When a person’s soul comes into a condition of an unsaved “dead” state (to be explained later) it is the breath of life aspect of the spirit which physically keeps a person alive. The spirit controls and gives life to both the eternal soul and mortal flesh of man.

When we die, it is said we “give up the ghost” which ”ghost” is synonym for “spirit”.

Genesis 25:8 Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

Genesis 25:17 And these are the years of the life of Ishmael, an hundred and thirty and seven years: and he gave up the ghost and died; and was gathered unto his people.

Genesis 35:29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Genesis 49:33 And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

This is confirmed concept in the NT also:

Acts 5:5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

Acts 5:10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

Ecclesiastes seems to teach us that the spirit of man, goes back to God.

Ecclesiastes 3:21 Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

The passage above does not seem to differentiate between a “saved” soul and an “unsaved” soul, but that the breath of life - the spirit of man - being from God, that when the body dies, all spirits go back to God. If the spirit goes back attached to a saved soul that person goes to heaven. If the spirit goes back to God empty handed, it can be surmised that person’s soul wasn’t attached to its spirit and that person’s soul went to hell upon death. Again the spirit is the determining factor for not only the state of the eternal soul, but that of the mortal body. It controls life in both at the same time.

Again the above illustration of a soul being “attached” (or not) to a spirit that goes back to God is just that an illustration so that we can understand the workings of the spiritual realm. More on this later.

We can also see overall when studying the spirit of man, this is the part of our triune being that interacts with God. Salvation is a spiritual transaction that occurs through the spirit of saved man having the indwelled Holy Spirit speaking the word of God – King James Bible verses - to an unsaved man. The spirit that was torn asunder from the eternal soul coming upon of the knowledge of good and evil is in need of being repaired back to its original condition sealed to the eternal soul in order to be saved. And just as it got torn asunder via the word of God, it can only be repaired by the word of God, through the Holy Spirit via a “soul winner”. Only a saved person can sew the word of God – even seeds - which sparks faith and gets another person saved if they respond and believe and the seed germinates!

I’ll have much more to say about the spirit when I get to the section where I discuss the mechanics of salvation.

**TRIUNE DOCTRINE: THE SOUL (OF MAN)**

This is where our studies of the triune doctrine of man get more muddled and the concept of the soul, what it is, what it isn’t, what happens to it and when, is more abused than almost any other subject in the bible. But let’s start with what we can see clearly in scripture.

We know the eternal soul has a “conscience” in that one can still think thoughts after the body dies and can retain earthly memories, can feel pain, experience emotions, and is eternal:

Revelation 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

14: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Or in the story of Lazarus and the rich man:

Luke 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

So the “conscience” is definitely part of our eternal soul, as we know after death our mortal memories and the memory of emotions and pain is felt and experienced by the eternal soul both in the saved and lost soul. One can say the eternal soul is our “self” and contains our unique personality given us by God.

Replace the words “soul” in the below verse with “self” it will make perfect sense. God is helping us define the term “soul” = (our) “self”

Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

(From here onward, unless indicated, I will be talking about the soul from a “saved” standpoint. After all, this essay is for Christians and we want to understand what is going on with our triune being.)

Christians also have a “mortal, carnal” aspect of “thinking” from our carnal, fleshly brains. Our carnal mind (and wicked carnal heart) seems to contain the origins of sin. James 1:

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Let’s talk about “lust” above in an example we can all understand. For example if a man sees a beautiful woman through the carnal eyes transmitted to our brain which then sends out signals to endocrine glands to begin to manufacture hormones which give feedback to our carnal brains which in turn causes other things to occur in our bodies if we let things continue unabated. In this case lust of the flesh begins to form a sinful thought in our brains and God forbid lead to sinful actions such as adultery. Isn’t this a fair assumption that in this case the sin conceived is wholly because of the natural hormonal and instinct to procreate of our wholly mortal bodies? Is this “lust” originating from our eternal soul? Because if it were, one could surmise that sin and lust might be possible even without the mortal flesh. (This is sort of what the Catholics believe and why they invented purgatory)

Paul blamed his flesh entirely for his sin problem in Romans 7 in a lengthy back and forth classic. One cannot read this without coming away that Paul – his self, his eternal saved soul self - is guiltless and blames his sin all on the flesh:

14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Paul is saying sin dwells in him but clarifies that it is in his flesh making quite a distinction that is where sin resides.

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

Now comes the teaching of the perfect law of God that always exists in the “inward man”. This inward man cannot just be Paul’s sinless spirit but his very eternal soul. When talking about “self” one cannot read this any other way but to conclude the inner man – which delights in the law of God - definitely involves the eternal soul.

22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Paul clearly uses the term “members” (2x) and “body” to indicate that the only thing that is responsible for his sin is his flesh. Once delivered from that he will sin no more. The sin in his members wars against the law of the mind – the conscience of the eternal and now sinless soul. ***With his conscience (the perfect mind of Christ) of his sinless soul he serves God, with the flesh only he serves sin.***

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

The above is quite apparent that it is only the flesh that needs to be redeemed and that the soul (and spirit) is considered sinless and does not commit sin or is the source of sin in a saved person.

We can see this also in 1 Peter 2:

2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Peter is confirming that it is the flesh responsible for sin and like Paul tells us; our sinless soul which was redeemed in full upon the moment of salvation is not the source of sin.

Peter also clues us in by calling Lot - a rather poor example of holy Christian living – yet Lot had a perfectly “righteous” soul. One cannot be deemed “righteous” if it has sin. We know Lot sinned in his flesh (as we all do) but again we see his eternal soul is sinless (righteous) because Lot believed on Christ. Yes a saved soul can be “vexed” by sin – feels the effects of sin - but it doesn’t commit (do) sin.

2 Peter 2:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

All of the above seems to indicate that the saved soul does not and cannot commit sin and is not responsible for sin. Even from a logical standpoint, when a saved person dies his sinless soul and sinless spirit immediately enters heaven. There is nothing that needs to occur for this to happen other than “giving up the ghost” and ridding oneself from our unredeemed fleshly, sinful body.

One cannot discuss the eternal soul without including the concept of the “heart” because it is only through the heart where belief in Christ comes from. There are 765 instances of the word “heart” in the bible so we need to have some kind of well-rounded understanding of the concept of “heart”. It would be best to start with the NT. (Suffice it to say, but an exhaustive study of “heart” is a massive essay in and of itself).

We know that salvation comes through the heart and one can conclude this is our “spiritual” heart, our “self”, our soul. It is no accident that the fleshly heart is the source of our fleshly life via the pumping of life-giving blood which is responsible for our physical life and death. The spiritual heart is also responsible for the eternal salvation of our souls. God uses the carnal to picture the spiritual.

Salvation comes by believing in one’s heart – and I would say our spiritual heart – which is a part of the eternal soul and closely linked to the concept of an eternal conscience. It kind of makes perfect sense that our eternal soul must ask for eternal life via the spiritual heart and confession by mouth through our fleshly interface.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Again the concept of a pure spiritual heart and a pure spiritual conscience (in a saved soul) is that they cannot commit sin. And like we Christians seem to have both a spiritual sinless conscience where the perfect law of God resides and definitely a sinful carnal mind which resides in our fleshly body, we have a pure spiritual heart in our eternal soul and a sinful wicked heart that resides in the flesh.

Obviously the concept of “heart” represents the seat of emotions and I argue that our spiritual saved heart – the heart that is spiritually circumcised - is pure and clean. The negative emotion such as strife and envy and lust resides in our body, the carnal heart of the flesh.

For we know that the heart is just a pump that circulates blood anyway. The entire concept of “heart” is a source and seat of our emotions and desires more or less. The inner man is perfectly complete, sinless and delightful. But the carnal fleshly outer man, wickedness can abound from his carnal heart.

Paul has something to say about this:

28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Paul explains above the reason for the circumcision of men in the OT covenant was to represent the circumcision of the heart. That when we believe on Christ, our naturally wicked carnal heart is spiritually circumcised and cut from the fleshly side and that part of our heart is forever sanctified (again using the carnal to explain spiritual). Yes there is more meaning to circumcision but for this essay this meaning will suffice. The OT also speaks of circumcising your heart:

Leviticus 26:41 And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity:

Again, I am writing from a saved Christian’s perspective of a saved soul. We know that the parable of the sower tells us that the word of God is sown into the hearts and if it germinates (by believing on Christ), the eternal soul is saved. We can say when a seed germinates and is saved the spiritual heart is circumcised away from the fleshly wicked heart. And this circumcised part of our heart is what we tap into when we are said to “walk in the spirit” (more on that concept later).

Now that we are slowly establishing that the eternally saved soul is not capable of sinning, the tough passages in John 1 are more easily able to be interpreted. John, like Paul and Peter, juxtapose the difference between the sinful part of us and the pure sinless part of us and to drive his point home as he does it in absolutes in which we cannot fudge the meaning:

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Ok that starts things off and makes sense. We know we have sin that resides in the flesh. The verse above does not necessarily tell us about the soul or spirit. But then we get this:

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

So now John is juxtaposing between the sinful flesh of 1 John 1:8 and the sinless inner man of 1 John 3:9. That is the only way to reconcile these 2 verses. In the first passage he is showing us as a total saved person consisting of soul, spirit and body, sins still resides (but we know it is in the flesh only)

And in the chapter 3:9 he is telling us in ABSOLUTE terms that we DO NOT and CANNOT sin if we are born of God because our seed (think parable of the sower) remains in us. Is he only talking about the spirit? That wouldn’t make sense because we just studied how the spiritual heart resides in our eternal soul and that the word of God is sewn into the heart and when the seed germinates we are become children of God and our spiritual heart is circumcised. Remember it is our eternal soul that is saved, as we know our spirit is going back to God upon bodily death whether we are saved or not.

John didn’t mess around. He spoke in absolute terms and it is no wonder these epistles are some of the last in the bible. First Paul explains how his flesh wars against his inward man. Then Peter reminds us it is the flesh that wars against the soul. And finally John nails down the “absoluteness” of how our eternally saved soul is sinless. When we come to realize that the saved soul/spirit is joined together and is sinless, the flesh is what remains unredeemed and we can read every bible passage in this very light and make sense of the harder passages.

Paul also spoke in absolutes that must be interpreted the same way in other heavily abused verses that the unsaved cannot understand:

1 Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

The above is a key verse that people use to justify works based “Lordship” salvation which is false. We easily interpret this passage as such: all of the wickedness Paul describes only resides in the flesh in a saved person. When we die, the flesh is gone and all the sin it produced is gone and our perfect sinless soul/spirit ascends to heaven immediately to be with God. And verse 11 tells us we have been washed and sanctified. Our eternal soul doesn’t get continually sanctified it occurred when we believed on Christ. It is then deemed sinless and like John said if born of God it DOES NOT COMMIT SIN!

The eternal soul is what is washed in the blood after all that is the part of us that requires salvation! This is a past tense one time washing of the self – the soul (and also the spirit).

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Revelation 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Our soul is sanctified the moment of salvation and this means it takes it to a state of sinlessness;

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Washed (by the blood of Christ), sanctified (set apart), justified (just as if I never sinned!) all at the moment of salvation of the saving of the eternal soul. It is the soul that needs saving and is marred with sin when we are in an unsaved state, it is the soul that needs washing by the blood.

I could quote many more verses showing when we were saved we were sanctified fully and since we know our flesh is not sanctified, it is our eternally sealed soul/spirit which is sanctified.

**TRIUNE DOCTRINE: THE BODY (FLESH)**

I won’t repeat what was said in the soul section of this essay about the body as there was a need to discuss the flesh when talking about the soul. But there are some important things to add under the heading of “body”.

Sin in our flesh is the responsibility of Adam’s fall into sin and is passed down through our father. We know the wages of sin is death. No matter how righteous we live in the flesh it is destined to die. Yes even babies have sinful flesh and toddlers can and do sin (they all lie) but they are not responsible yet for their sins (more on that later).

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Many people and even Pastors just wing sermons and make a lot of assertions about the soul, body and spirit that is biblically unsound by assigning sinful deeds, desires and thoughts to the eternally saved sinless soul or even the sinless regenerated spirit. And this is a big error because hopefully by now you can see the eternally saved soul – which goes to heaven immediately after the body dies is sinless and as John told us DOES NOT COMMIT SIN. If one cannot come to terms with this “fact”, then they will forever make errors in the doctrine of soul, body, spirit. The doctrine at its most basic is this:

The saved soul/spirit is sinless and instantly redeemed upon salvation. This sinless inward man can be vexed (to bring trouble, distress, or agitation to) by sin, but it does not commit sin.

The always sinful flesh body is never redeemed until the day of redemption – the day of Christ, the first resurrection and is the only part of us that commits sin.

Again, when reading the bible we must discern terms such as “heart” “conscience” “mind” etc. because these concepts reside in both the sinless saved soul/spirit and the sinful flesh. We have the carnal heart capable of sinning on earth in our bodies; we have a circumcised spiritual pure heart residing on the inner man. We have a carnal sinful mind and we have a sinless conscience residing in our saved soul. One cannot just see the word “heart” and assign it where is ought not to be assigned and think of it in a way which leads to confusion. We have to discern what we are to make of each time something is being talked about in scriptures through context and usage.

For instance Jesus told us the greatest commandment is to love God:

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Is the above verse teaching us “triune man” doctrine of the eternal soul? (No) And are we to infer that a saved soul sins and there needs to be an effort for it not to sin and force it to love? (No) Or is Jesus just simply relating simple terms and phrases we commonly use and can easily relate to? (Yes) We are to love God with our whole being and that definitely includes the sinful flesh side of us. No need to try and extrapolate any other kind of “proof” text in this passage. We all clearly know what he means which is why he said it the way he did. *Even the unsaved man knows perfectly the meaning.*

Again the word ‘”soul” has to be seen in context. You’ll notice I do not use a lot of OT passages as “proof”. If I was to do that, this essay would be bloated triple the size just from trying to explain every verse in context of itself and others. The NT is more than sufficient for the grounding of our doctrine.

But in general all scripture will easily fall into place and should be interpreted through the lens of the saved soul/spirit is sinless, the flesh is never sinless. If you do that, the harder passages of the NT become more easily understood. Fight against this principle and you will wind up like a dipstick forever lost in the mud and the pre-trib rapture doctrine. Is it no wonder that many dipsticks cannot grasp the concepts in this essay and that the saved soul never sins? Because the natural man receive not the things of God because they are spiritually discerned.

And speaking of redemption of the body, we all know when that comes. The promise of that is talked about here:

Ephesians 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

“until the redemption of the purchased possession” is talking only about the body and that comes at the first resurrection. That is truly when we will finally and truly “all things are become new”.

We will not have flesh and blood, but flesh and bones in our new body just as Jesus showed the disciples after his resurrection that we will be like him:

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

No longer powered by human blood, we will be powered by the spirit:

15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

**PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER, KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, AND THE MECHANICS OF SALVATION**

Before getting to the “mechanics” of salvation (again I will use an illustration to explain the spiritual please don’t get bent out of shape if you don’t like it) let’s start out at the beginning: how we were conceived and fall into an unsaved state of being in the first place. We must first understand this if we are to understand salvation.

We are conceived in the mother’s womb. The moment of conception, the female egg being fertilized by the male sperm of the father, is indeed a “moment in time” very quickly happens and is when I believe God gives us a soul and spirit. The “breath of life”. Our zygote mass of cells quickly divide. Isn’t it amazing how God divides things always from Genesis to Revelation including our growing in the womb?

Upon forming in the womb, we know that the soul/spirit are still joined in unison and exist in a state of salvation for a baby has no knowledge of sin. If it were to die before the knowledge of good and evil, the baby’s soul/spirit goes to heaven. The baby is born of water as Jesus reminds Nicodemus in John:

3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

We are first born in a sac of watery fluid from our mothers. This is the first birth. When we get saved by believing on Jesus, this is the spiritual birth or “born again”. Bonus materiel: Why did Jesus remand Nicodemus for not knowing the 2 births? Read Psalm 87 is the answer:

1 (A Psalm or Song for the sons of Korah.) His foundation is in the holy mountains.

2 The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

3 Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah.

4 I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there. (the first birth on earth of mortal man)

5 And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. (the second birth is of heavenly Zion – the spiritual birth)

6 The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah.

7 As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there: all my springs are in thee.

A toddler or young child has the sinful flesh and begins to sin at a young age. What 3 year old doesn’t lie or unmercifully pull on a cat’s tail? LOL! But he is not guilty of any sin because he/she does not know the concept of sin and is still blameless. Their soul/spirit is still “sealed” – attached – and if they die, they go to heaven. We know this from the example of Kind David’s child that died.

2 Samuel 12:23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

At some point, and we do not know at what point, a child comes to the knowledge of sin and dies a spiritual death. I imagine it is different for each depending on the circumstances. To who is much given, much is required.

We know that Paul acknowledged that he was once whole before knowledge of God’s law slew him:

Romans 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

We can imagine Paul was referring to himself coming to the knowledge of good and evil (sin) as a child or teenager. That is done only through realizing the word of God that was written into the heart and conscience of our eternal soul:

14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

So what is the mechanism of coming to the knowledge of sin and immediately dying a spiritual death? Here is where the famous Hebrews 4:12 comes into the picture that explains it is the word of God – God’s laws written upon our hearts – that is the very thing that causes our spiritual death upon realizing the knowledge of good and evil:

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

This is a moment in time just like our conception in the womb was. It is not a “gradual” process you are either in a state of needing salvation or not. To explain it using an illustration, when a young person realizes they are sinning and it is wrong to do and has a fully developed concept of sin, God’s natural law written on everyone’s hearts tears apart our spirit of life from our eternal soul. Since we know when the body dies the spirit returns to God, it can go back to God either empty-handed without a soul attached or with a (saved) soul attached.

Everyone on earth who lives to the point of gaining the knowledge of sin via God’s laws written into their heart dies a spiritual death and is in need of salvation whether they know it or not.

***It was the word of God written on their eternal soul’s hearts that us (coming to the knowledge of sin) and it can only be the word of God that saves us through believing of Jesus in the same eternal heart of our soul. When we get saved, the spirit of life is repaired back unto the eternal soul and is sealed again back to its state that it was in the 1st birth (of the womb). God indwells the eternal sinless soul/spirit at the second spiritual birth.***

The person who goes into the state of spiritual death immediately has experienced a “breach” of the sealing spirit that had been sealed to the soul at conception not allowing sin to mar the soul. Once the breech has been opened the stain of sin from the flesh causes the eternal soul to be stained with sin and causes it to sin. **Indeed one can say the soul is now sinning or sinful we need not to think more deeply than that, we are deep enough!** We can just leave it at that we know what we mean. Salvation involves re-sealing the breech – repairing the spirit of life back unto the eternal soul – and washing the now stained and sinful soul back to a state of sanctification and sinless.

But please note that even though spiritually our soul has been ripped apart from our saving spirit by the word of God, yet we remain alive because that same spirit of life – the literal breath of life – keeps our mortal bodies alive. Our spirit of life determines death of not only the soul but the body.

So what part of our triune being dies when we die a spiritual death? From the standpoint of our self – our eternal soul – if we no longer are sealed by our spirit we can see that our spirit is dead to us. From the spirit’s point of view, the eternal soul is dead and unless a repair of this state of spiritual deadness in both occurs, it’s just semantics at this point and we can see that in scripture. **Arguing whether the soul or spirit dies a spiritual death the simple answer is both.** If the body dies while the soul still needs salvation, the soul is definitely dead and in hell at that point. And has no spirit of life which can also be called “dead”. We can word it any way we like because from all angles it’s true.

 **An unsaved soul/spirit is dead in respect to eternal life. The saved soul/spirit is alive in respect to eternal life.**

We can also semantically say we are still alive while being in an unsaved state. Our body is kept alive by our spirit – breath - of life, and our eternal soul is still functioning in our still living fleshly body capable of doing what souls do. The MAIN point is that the breach – the “dividing asunder” of soul and spirit is what needs to be fixed before we “give up the ghost” here on earth. And we get this through salvation – the gospel of Jesus Christ. Until we get that dividing asunder repaired back to what it was when we were conceived and without the blame of sin on our souls, we risk eternal damnation ultimately the Lake of Fire where both the soul and resurrected dead body are tossed into eternal damnation with no spirit of life. The spirit is dead to those people. And one can say since it returned to God, the spirit is absent from the damned soul/body in the Lake of Fire anyway.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

The Lake of Fire is known as the “second death”. We can only apply the “second death” to the unsaved. Trying to apply it to the saved is incorrect.

Logically speaking, the “second death” can only apply to the unsaved person’s body when it gets tossed into the Lake of Fire. The unsaved are never resurrected by men of God in the bible. And all the unsaved (if they stay that way until death) WILL die a first bodily death as they are excluded from the rapture. Then ALL unsaved in hell will be resurrected bodily and tossed into the Lake of Fire along with their soul. They are “dead” because they have no spirit of life. It is absent, or just dead. Think of it in either manner is just fine.

So the “second death” is the unsaved experiencing 2 exact bodily deaths. ALL unsaved that are tossed in the Lake of Fire exist in this condition. They had a 1st bodily death and went to hell. They were resurrected in their dead bodies at the Great White throne judgment just before the new heaven and new earth and the body and soul was tossed into the Lake of Fire. **This is the second bodily death.** The second death. Spiritually they only died once and never got saved.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Reprobates can be known as “twice dead” here on earth. This is God’s way of saying that they have already “punched their tickets” to the Lake of Fire while still breathing air here on earth:

Jude 1:12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, **twice dead,** plucked up by the roots;

We get salvation through a soul-winner who has of course the indwelled Holy Spirit speaking the words of God (King James Bible verses work best) to an unsaved spirit which can spark faith in the heart of an unsaved person. Plant the seeds of the word of God on the heart. Always remember, when soul-winning be gentle and kind and talk to their spirit.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Jesus tells us it is his words which give life:

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

It is through the Holy Spirit working to repair the breach in our spirit/soul, that we get eternal life. “Quicken” means to make alive, to bring to life. If we come to believe the gospel in our eternal hearts, our spirit gets transformed by the Holy Spirit while in a state of needing salvation through the power of the word of God – the King James Bible. At the very least, the Holy Spirit plants seeds of faith on our hearts perhaps to germinate at a later date. But we must act on it and confess with our mouths to be able to believe in our hearts. Confessing with one’s mouth the Lord Jesus is the act of believing. What person would ever claim that they are saved and never talked or confessed anything to Jesus, to God or even asked for salvation with words formed with their lips? (A wicked false prophet, that is who).

It is when we act upon that faith and humble ourselves and believe the gospel and call upon Jesus for salvation is when the breach between soul and spirit is repaired by the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us and immediately washes, seals, and justifies our soul - and as a matter of course our spirit – **and we have again a tightly knit soul/spirit that is difficult to distinguish apart** because they are together and sinless again and God dwells in the combined sealed section of our triune being. We have been 66% redeemed with the sure promise of full redemption of our body upon his Second Coming.

**THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

I probably haven’t focused enough about the indwelled Holy Spirit because it’s obvious that everything made new inside us he did. He dwells in us, he teaches us the bible, and we have him available in times of persecution to bring to remembrance the power of the word of God. He is what repaired our sinful soul upon believing on Christ. We can vex the Holy Ghost inside us by living in sin particularly grievous sin. It is possible to suppress the Holy Ghost’s influence for long periods of time. Despite being saved, Christians still very much live in the flesh most of the time. That doesn’t mean we are sin machines while living in the flesh, it just means its human nature.

If we didn’t live so much in the flesh, there wouldn’t be hundreds and hundreds of bible verses commanding us to keep this flesh in check and we do this by keeping God’s commandments.

I like to think of the inward man’s sinless soul/spirit as being tightly joined in a cocoon both indwelled by the Holy Ghost. So that when we “tap” into the inward man, or “walk in the spirit” we are in effect reaching inward to not only our higher perfect selves that have been renewed but the power of the Holy Ghost. I wouldn’t want to overcomplicate things too much. We know we have a perfect sinless soul/spirit that has a pure and perfect heart, the mind of Christ and a pure sinless spirit and we know the Holy Ghost is pure. We can tap into the fruit of the Holy Ghost which has been transferred onto our perfect higher inward man.

 Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

**WALKING IN THE SPIRIT, THE INWARD MAN, THE NEW MAN VS WALKING IN THE FLESH, THE OUTER MAN**

Hopefully by now one who studies the doctrine of the soul, body, and spirit can see that a saved Christian has a perfect inward “self” that resides in our sealed and washed in the blood eternal sinless soul. Sometimes people call this our “higher, perfect self”. At the same time, we have the old man, the old “self” that resides wholly in the flesh.

As I have been trying to show, saved Christians have 2 minds and 2 hearts. The circumcised pure heart resides in our sinless eternal soul. We also have a sinless conscience, the law of God that resides in our sinless eternal soul. And we have a wicked heart and carnal mind that resides wholly in the flesh. James alludes to these two minds that all Christians have:

James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

What does it mean to be double minded and why is God commanding us not to be double minded? Because he is referring to the mind of the flesh, the carnal mind that conjures up wicked thoughts. A Christian should not be living their lives or basing any decisions on what the selfish mind of the flesh can dream up. We are to tap into our perfect mind that resides in our sinless sealed soul/spirit to guide us in life. A double minded person (remember we are talking about a saved Christian) is one that mostly obeys the carnal thoughts that resides in the carnal flesh and tends to ignore the pure spiritual mind that we all have and it results in unstableness of the Christian who does this.

We know we have a pure mind because Paul tells us we have the mind of Christ. Is Paul talking about a pure mind residing in our sinful flesh? No, again, if we cannot grasp this concept of 2 minds and 2 hearts we will be forever lost in scripture.

1 Corinthians 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

In the same passage above, James 4:8, he commands us to purify our hearts. Is James talking about the pure heart that already resides in our eternally sealed soul? That wouldn’t make any sense. The NT and OT are commanding men of God to purify their hearts all the time. These commandments are for us to get control over our fleshly heart emotions and desires as best we can by keeping God’s commandments. Indeed once a person is saved, their entire life’s efforts should be to sanctify the flesh as much as they can. We already know our eternal soul was fully sanctified and sealed the moment we got saved.

Again, I cannot stress this enough in that a saved Christian has 2 minds (conscience thought) and 2 hearts (emotions). The ones that reside in the inward perfect man – the sinless sealed soul/spirit - are pure and incapable of sinning. The ones that reside wholly in the flesh are never pure and it the source of ALL our sinning as a Christian. Even though we got saved and repaired the spirit back to the soul, our knowledge of good and evil did not go away because it still resides in our fleshly minds and hearts. This is what we war against all our life. So the bible teaches us to “walk in the spirit” and “put on the new man”. All these verses are telling us is that we need to realize we have a bad self, and a pure self and that if we make effort and work at it, we can tap into our pure self to guide all things we do in life and how we interact with others.

Our saved sinless eternal soul and spirit is tightly knit together again and this is why the concept of “walking in the spirit” (referring to our pure spirit and the Holy Spirit that resides in us) and putting on the “new man” which more aligns with our eternal soul mean the same things. The sealed eternal soul to the spirit of life is almost indistinguishable once it is sealed together again after being saved. We are to tap into both and God dwells in both!

Think of it like this: The “inward man” = soul. “Walking in the spirit” = spirit. Paul was explaining it from both angles because they are BOTH true.

Many people and even Pastors do not and cannot fully understand this concept. Many teach that only the spirit in us is pure and our soul is not. This leads to Catholicism and Lordship salvation false doctrines. They teach that the saved soul can still sin and wars against the flesh and yearns for the spirit. Hardly anyone teaches correctly that we have 2 minds and 2 hearts. 1 set is pure and cannot sin (this is the part the goes to heaven when we die) and the other is of the sinful flesh. ALL the commandments throughout the NT exhorting Christians to be of pure mind and heart are talking about bringing the old man under control by looking inward and seeing and following the sinless example that the inward man always has available to him to follow.

One can say in a sense that a Christian has 2 spirits, but this can cause confusion so let me explain. We have the triune part of us (the spirit of life) that is sealed, sinless spirit which is always pure and interacts with God and we also have a “carnal” spirit that resides in our flesh. If as a saved Christian, I did some wicked sins to another person (let’s just say I lied about him) he may tell me that I have a “bad” spirit. Well, he would be correct in that sense wouldn’t he? But is he talking about my sinless sealed spirit the part of me that goes to heaven? Of course not. So in a sense we not only have 2 minds, 2 hearts, a saved Christian can be said to have 2 spirits.

The fleshly spirit springs forth from the sinful fleshly heart and sinful carnal mind and depending on the carnal state of the Christian his carnal spirit can be in a state of goodness or a state of sinfulness. Again the concept of a carnal spirit it helps to just think of this as the attitudes emanating from the state of the carnal heart and carnal mind. Sometimes we are doing well in the flesh, sometimes we sin and our carnal spirit will oscillate back and forth to sin, not sin, just as our carnal minds and hearts go into and out of sin every day. Our carnal spirit, like the carnal mind and heart of the flesh is unredeemable and is lost with the body upon death. The carnal spirit resides wholly in the flesh. I hope that makes sense. But we do need to understand this concept in order to understand some bible passages:

Again, in the Book of James we can see we have 2 spirits:

James 4:6 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The **spirit** that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

Is James referring to our eternal sinless sealed and washed spirit lusting to envy or the carnal spirit of the mind/heart of the flesh? It is the latter. Christians can be said to have bad spirits but it is not talking about the perfect sinless spirit which is tightly attached to the saved sinless soul. Just remember that the carnal spirit of man is not a part of our triune being that gets redeemed. This carnal spirit is not the breath of life. “Spirit” is one of those bible words that can be easily confused and assigned a meaning to where it ought not. I have a sinless soul/spirit, and I have an unredeemable spirit (my carnal attitudes that spring forth from my carnal mind and heart that I exhibit all my life). It’s important to know the difference and I hope no one is confused. And yes, we can have a good carnal spirit if we purify our carnal minds and hearts by keeping God’s commandments as best we can.

Just because I keep referring to them (carnal heart, mind and spirit) as sinful does not mean we are to just let them sin away. No! I am merely explaining what is going on “under the hood”. Most of the bible is about bringing the sinful mind, heart and spirit side of us (of the flesh) under control by looking inward at the pure man inside and having him be the example we live by in the flesh. And we best do this by simply keeping God’s commandments.

So let’s review everything so far. The doctrine of a saved Christian’s soul/body and spirit:

The saved sinless eternal soul is tightly knit (sealed) to the sinless spirit. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit resides in this part of us. Within this saved cocoon of sealed and washed soul/spirit we have a pure sinless mind of Christ, our eternal conscience that has the pure law of God forever written on it, and a pure sinless circumcised heart. We can confidently say 66.6% of us are incapable of sinning. This is the inward man, the new man, the “walking in the spirit” side of us.

The other side of us resides the sinful carnal flesh, which is never redeemed, has a carnal mind, a carnal heart and both are what cause sin. We can also be said to have a carnal spirit but only in the sense that word represents our daily attitudes and such. It is not a part of the saved eternal spirit. Think of it as a spirit that springs forth from our carnal mind and heart. All of this flesh side of us will die a death.

When the flesh side dies, there is nothing preventing the sinless soul/spirit from immediately ascending to heaven. And why wouldn’t it? It has already been redeemed and sinless the moment we got saved. It is pure in heart and mind and spirit. The dead flesh leaves behind the carnal sinful brain, the sinful emotions and desires it produced (our carnal heart) and our “carnal” spirit (which oscillated between good and bad) that sprung forth as a result. All that will be gone. The Apostles understood this completely because all the epistles talk about this in one way or another in absolutes. **Hard passages.** When we see a scripture that is an “absolute” scripture, (such as “those born of God do not commit sin”) we just have to figure out which half of us is the Apostle or even Jesus referring to and then the passage makes sense.

Why do the scriptures speak in sometimes confusing absolutes? Because these are the deep things of God and we need to study the whole and piece it all together. Paul, James, Peter and John all speak sometimes in absolute terms but all are harmonized once you have the key to the lock. This is why getting the doctrine of the soul, body and spirit correct, and realizing a saved person has 2 minds, 2 hearts and 2 spirits, ***one side perfectly sinless***, the other side residing WHOLLY in the flesh, is a very important one.

I could use a lot more scripture to prove my point but I challenge you to read the bible – at least the NT - through the lens of the doctrine laid out in this essay. Take any passage that can be confusing on the surface and applying the doctrine of the bible then verses will be easy to figure out.

Let’s take this verse for instance:

1 John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

“the truth is not in him”. Which him? Is John saying if you break God’s commandments your eternal soul does not have the truth? That doesn’t make any sense and is against scripture. I am saved, I have an eternally sinless soul/spirit and the truth of the word of God is written within that eternal soul and it cannot lie and cannot sin and resides there forever.

John is referring to the fleshly side of “him”. Basically don’t go around saying you “know” God but you are living a sinful lifestyle. This verse has nothing to do with our spotless saved soul/spirit. But it IS teaching that in order to truly “know” and understand God, we have to keep his commandments which means bringing the fleshly “him” side of us under control. If you can do that, keep the commandments as best you can, you truly will get to know God because a big part of keeping the commandments is to READ YOUR BIBLE!

Here is another example:

1 John 2:9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

It’s yet another “absolute” type verse that will confuse even a saved person. But through the correct doctrine of soul/body/spirit, we know 1) a saved sinless soul/spirit is not being talked about here because that part of us always loves our brother. 2) John is talking about again the fleshly side of us. We cannot say we are in Christ’s light if we hate another brother in Christ. We are to tap into the pure love of the pure heart that resides in our sinless soul/spirit and realize that hating a brother (the hate that our sinful carnal mind conjures up) is not tolerable. Being in “darkness” is the opposite of “light” (truth). There are no blessings when we are in darkness. We need to “fix” the hating of a brother and forgive like Christ forgave us. Then we can truly say we are in the light and now we can have blessings! And we do this by looking inward to our perfect sinless self and tap into that pure spirit of love that we KNOW resides in us and apply it’s healing example to our carnal “self”, sinful, fleshly side.

Another:

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

This is another seemingly scary verse. But we KNOW we love the Father with a perfect love that resides in our sinless soul/spirit side of our inward man and that never leaves. This is where truth resides always. We can take comfort that we know John is not talking about our saved eternal soul/spirit.

John is speaking again about our fleshly side of us; the “Father not in him” is referring to our carnal side of which we live in most of the time. That wicked carnal heart that can fall easily into loving the things of this world. If we pursue the love of the world, how will we have time to love the Father? If we pursue worldly lusts and desires and the praise of unsaved men, when will we have time to read our bible? Why yoke up with unbelievers? The command is simply to focus on living for the eternal and not for the world. We are pilgrims in this land. The less we love the world, the more we can love God. We are to love the lost people in the world but not caught up in the material, fame and mammon aspect of it.

We can literally vex the soul/spirit by living solely for the world. We can put ourselves in darkness and push our inward man so far in, that we can even forget that we are supposed to be Christians.

These absolutes are teaching us important concepts and having the correct doctrine of soul/body/spirit makes it rather easy to interpret correctly these verses. Otherwise people see the phrase “the love of the Father is not in him” and to an unstable Christian babe in Christ they can get easily confused and doubt their salvation.

Indeed the hard passages has sprung up many false denominations because the natural man CANNOT understand the nature of a saved Christian in that a saved person has a prefect sinless side with a pure heart, pure mind and pure spirit and also an “old” man that has a carnal mind, heart and spirit that springs forth from them. This is the side that commits ALL the sin ALWAYS!

Let’s do another verse that is most heavily misunderstood and abused by looking through the correct doctrine of soul/body/spirit:

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

The verse above is one used by all false prophets to spread a works-based “Lordship” salvation gospel. But what is the verse really saying? Paul is clearly speaking that when a person gets saved to Jesus he is a new creature. Which part of us is new? Clearly our flesh is not (yet) new. Our spirit is quickened (made alive again) and our eternal soul is washed clean with the blood of Christ, sealed back to our spirit of life and both sanctified and the Holy Ghost takes up permanent residence in our now sinless soul/spirit. So we know THAT part of us is definitely “new”!

But the flesh did not become new upon salvation. We are still sinful. What is the real meaning? When we read this verse, this verse is speaking to us in a ***truth that cannot be broken***. Once we are saved to Christ, we WILL get new bodies, ALL of us. It is as if it was already done. Sometimes God speaks as if things have already occurred because these things WILL come to pass and he cannot change his mind on it. It WILL come to pass that we WILL ALL get NEW bodies. This is how to read this verse. We shouldn’t be using it as “proof” that we should all automatically stop sinning and if we don’t we were never saved. This is wicked false prophet doctrine. Paul is teaching us triune man doctrine and we just have to figure it out. You can remember what this verse primarily means by the strange combination of “are become” new. “Are” is present tense because your soul/spirit is now sinless and sanctified. “Become” is future tense because your flesh will become new at a later date – the first resurrection/rapture. (I am not an English major but thinking of this verse in this way is easy to remember)

And by saying it all as if it has already happened, God is showing us a promise he cannot break or repent of that once we believed on Christ, we will be like him fully someday. That is the predestination of having believed on Jesus is that 100% of our soul/body/spirit WILL be new just like Christ. The deal is already sealed!

**WHAT HAPPENED TO JESUS ON THE CROSS, WHEN HE DIED AND WHEN HE WAS RESURRECTED**

Everything I have been saying will now make perfect sense when we look at the life of Jesus and what happened to him on the cross and what happened to his soul/body/spirit.

Jesus of course lived a sinless life. Not having a human father his flesh did not inherit the sure destination to sin coming from Adam. But the bible tells us he endured all things as a human does as far as emotions, feelings, hunger, pain, etc. Yet he overcame and never sinned so that he could be offered spotless upon the cross for our sin. Jesus’s soul/spirit was tightly sealed together. The Father forsook Jesus and could no longer look upon him when he was on the cross to take on all the world’s sins.

Jesus started to take on all the sin of the world at about 12 pm when the sky went dark. Before he dies he spoke:

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

The Father had truly forsaken the son and piled all the sin of the world past, present and future upon his soul. His soul and spirit was ripped asunder and split in two as shown earlier in Hebrews 4:12. Jesus was speaking in Aramaic which was his “heart” language. Jesus was NOT quoting Psalms, Psalms had quoted him.

Jesus had also said this curious thing, “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit”

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

This confirms what we learned that happens to ALL spirits are returned to God. Jesus’s spirit went back to be with the Father because we know Jesus’s soul went to hell. And souls that go to hell are “dead” and have no spirit of life – the 1/3 triune being of us.

So the spirit was divided asunder from Jesus’s soul on the cross and when Jesus “gave up the ghost” (his spirit of life went to the father and the Holy Ghost left him) his now sinful soul went straight to hell to pay for all the world’s sins. He was the whole burnt offering lamb the OT sacrifices were trying to teach all along.

So Jesus’s spirit went back to the Father, his soul went to hell which is the punishment to pay for our sins, and Jesus’s body lie in the tomb but uncorrupted. All three divided asunder just like any other unsaved person when they die without Christ and their souls go to hell. We know Jesus’s soul went to hell, the psalms sung of it, Jonah prophesied of it, and Peter confirmed it in Acts chapter 2;

Acts 2:27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

3 days passed and it was the power of the Godhead; Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Father that raised him from hell.

Jesus had the power to raise himself:

John 2:20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

The Holy Ghost raised him up:

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

The Father raised him up:

Galatians 1:1 1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

In the early morning hours, Jesus had not yet ascended to heaven to sprinkle his blood on the mercy seat of the tabernacle in heaven.

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

**THE CONCEPT OF SANCTIFICATION**

I’ll keep this passage short because I have already proven with passages earlier that our eternal sinless saved and sealed soul/spirit has already been fully sanctified (set apart, made holy) upon believing on Christ.

So why all the verses demanding we sanctify ourselves? Those verses are speaking of our flesh and how we must work to bring it under subjection. Because the truth be told, we mostly live in the flesh more than we think. In fact a majority of the time we live in the flesh. This does not mean we are necessarily always sinning while in that flesh but it’s the basic truth is that tapping into our perfect sinless soul/spirit and the Indwelled Holy Spirit himself is not something we normally live in if we are honest. That is why most of the bible commands us to have our flesh in check – which is still under the law of God – to keep his commandments. The more we keep his commandments, the less we will sin and then we can be pleasing to God.

**THE BOOK OF LIFE**

The Book of Life is not a difficult subject to understand once you realize that names are only ever blotted out, not added in like most Pastors teach even though the bible only ever talks about erasure. And we know this to be true because Jesus was the lamb slain from the foundation of the world and God wants everyone to be saved.

Upon the foundation of the world, every soul that ever will live was written in the book of life.

["BOOK OF LIFE" IN THE BIBLE (kingjamesbibleonline.org)](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/search.php?hs=1&q=%22book+of+life%22)

And does it not make sense? After all we see that babies go to heaven and are blameless for sin, thereby we know EVERY person who ever lived was once in the book of life. Everyone had to go through a process of coming to the knowledge of good and evil to die that spiritual death.

Names get blotted out when a person dies without Christ and goes to hell. Names can also get blotted out while alive here on earth this is known as the reprobate doctrine and we can see that one can be “twice dead, plucked up by the roots” while still breathing air on this earth.

We also see those who alter the word of God (false bible versions) are blotted out. God held those responsible for the wicked versions of the bible such as the NIV. The mastermind’s being these bibles are held accountable. But they were probably already children of the devil anyway.

And in the end times, anyone that takes the mark of the beast is damned so we know their names are blotted out while still breathing on earth.

**VIEWING SALVATION PRIOR TO THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CONFIRMS THIS DOCTRINE AS PRESENTED IN THIS ESSAY**

How did salvation work prior to the gift of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? Old Testament saints?

**EXACTLY THE SAME WAY IT OCCURS TODAY DUH!**

They died a spiritual death the same way by coming to the knowledge of the law of God written on their eternal soul’s heart. They got saved the same way by the word of God, the Holy Spirit working through a soul-winner preaching the word of God. Their spirit of life was sealed back to their eternal soul and washed clean with the blood of Christ when they believed the everlasting gospel of the coming Christ, the Redeemer.

The only difference being that when a saved person committed grievous enough sins; the Holy Spirit left that person at God’s discretion. Yet King David had that sinless sealed soul/spirit of himself – he had the ability to reach inward toward his saved and perfect inward man to be able to ask for forgiveness and have the Holy Spirit come upon him again.

We do not know how long the Holy Spirit dwelled in man before the gift of the permanent indwelling. We do read all the time about the spirit of God “came upon…” (Or leaving) as if it had just at that moment. But one thing we do know is that salvation was the same, the gospel was the same (just less revealed). An OT person died a spiritual death by the word of God and got saved by the same word of God with the power of the Holy Spirit working through a soul-winner!

What about prior to any written word of God (that we know of)? Before the flood? Before Moses even? The word of God is the word of God whether it is written or spoken! Obviously the people who lived pre-flood did not have advantages we have. They had neither permanent indwelling nor the written bible as we know it. Inevitably this resulted in a lack of soul-winners through the generations and the people of the earth waxed more and more violent.

Was everyone that died in the flood unsaved? No, we know that Noah preached during the 100 years he was building the arc and we KNOW the power of the word of God does not come back void. Yet the men of earth fates were sealed anyway. All flesh would be wiped out (save 8 souls) whether or not they believed or not. We get a hint that either Noah or some form of Pre-flood Jesus Christ was preaching the gospel prior to the day it started raining:

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

We also know that God in many different ways conveyed his message (Hebrews 1:1) in the past mostly through prophets. We even learn that Enoch was a prophet preaching the Second Coming of Christ! We can be confident God was thorough.

We do know that sin in the Old Testament is the same as sin in the New Testament. If New Testament believers who have the indwelling grievously sin and thereby putting the indwelled Holy Spirit into deep retreat, indeed even darkness, couldn’t we semantically say that the Holy Spirit is no longer with us? (It of course is, we just buried it in darkness by living fully in the carnal world)

I believe Jesus taught the duality of a saved Christian can put himself in darkness by harkening to things of the and through the flesh:

**Matthew 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.**

**23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!**

**24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**

The great advantage the New Testament believers have is they have a greater power to be able to tap into and come back to the light when a Christian goes into deep sin. If the Holy Spirit left the Old Testament believer, he STILL retained the ability to look inward and tap into the perfect, sinless saved soul/spirit to ask for forgiveness and have God come upon him again.

If an Old Testament believer did not have his saved perfect inward man – and I argue this “man” is one way of referencing the sinless saved soul – the “self” - how would he ever come back from a state of sinfulness to get back in God’s grace so that the Holy Spirit would come upon him again? Did not King David also have the ability to “walk in the spirit” by tapping into his perfect sinless soul/spirit having the mind of Christ, and a circumcised sinless heart? I think so. Did not they tap the inward man (soul) and walk in the spirit (spirit) the same way we do today whether or not they had the power of the Holy Spirit upon them? I argue of course they did!

A great need of the indwelling for the New Testament believers is because we have the entire book of God and we need to be able to have the Holy Spirit guide us in being able to discern the word of God. God’s wisdom to wait until Jesus was fully revealed and the bible fully written it makes perfect sense and it is vital we have a permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit to be able to pick up the bible and understand it if we diligently seek the truth.

**CONCLUSION**

One can easily see why the doctrine of the soul, body and spirit is one that we need to strive to understand. The logic of man mostly teaches that the eternal soul goes back and forth from “walking in the spirit” to “walking the flesh” and that it is capable of sinning and that the eternal soul interacts with both. That is a Catholic view and is not what the bible actually teaches.

The bible actually teaches is that the eternal soul/eternal spirit is redeemed in full and sanctified the moment of salvation. Made alive again and washed by the blood of Christ and God’s Holy Spirit comes and dwells in us. The soul/spirit is sealed together forever and almost becomes indistinguishable.

Think of it like this: The “inward man” = soul. “Walking in the spirit” = spirit. Paul was explaining it from both angles because they are BOTH true.

What the bible actually teaches is that we have a “duality” created when we get saved. One part of us (that becomes new!) is our sinless, saved and perfect sealed soul/spirit (where the indwelling occurs). This is the part that goes to heaven instantly when we die in our mortal sinful flesh bodies. This part of us is perfect and we should have great faith and great comfort KNOWING that it exists within all saved Christians. There should be NO STRUGGLE in understanding this KEY concept. We HAVE the mind of Christ (in our sinless soul) we HAVE a pure and spiritual circumcised heart, and we are of pure and sinless spirit.

The other “self” emanates solely from the sinful carnal flesh half of our mortal, fleshly, carnal part is NOT a part of our eternal soul/spirit. Yet that carnal side of us – the flesh – is WHOLLY responsible for sin. The Apostle Paul made this clear he blamed only his flesh in Romans 7! He understood this duality created when he got saved. We can see that our mortal “self” has a still sinful and sometimes downright wicked heart. We have carnal brains with fleshly desires and lusts. We have a sort of “spirit” that emanates from whatever it is at the time we are doing in the flesh. This “spirit” is not a part of our eternal spirit. It’s the “carnal” side of us.

Again, we HAVE already the perfect circumcised, pure heart that resides in us, the part that humbled and asked for the free gift of salvation. We HAVE already a perfect conscious with the pure law of God written upon it and thus we have the mind of Christ. We HAVE a pure spirit. We are NOT CAPABLE of sinning in this part of ourselves. 1 John clearly stated it in absolutes as did the Apostle Paul. Let this sink in deep because it is an important aspect of doctrine that is essential for our understanding of the harder passages in not only the NT but the Old.

But not only is it important for our understanding of bible verses, it is vital to understand for our very well-being as Christian. How many confused Christians doubt their salvation because they do not realize they already have a perfect sanctified, sinless, sealed soul/spirit (INCAPABLE OF COMMITTING SIN!) that resides in them? Not many! And that they can “seek and tap” into this part of themselves at any time if they just realize it is there to begin with?

It is what keeps me grounded knowing I already have that perfect sinless “higher self” in me. And knowing that I find it much easier to tap into that part of me because I have come to understand what it means. And knowing that the Holy Spirit himself resides in my soul/spirit is just double grounding of my mind and gives me great peace and comfort.

I will strive to walk in that Spirit, to tap into my inward man, because I know that it is perfectly sinless and is my example if I understand it. And I think I do.

 Thank you for reading I hope this is a blessing!

Dan !