

Conclusions

Introduction

- You are a spirit being with a psyche, temporarily living in a physical body
- You are a reborn creature
 - your old identity (before Jesus)
 - your spirit existed, was functional, but separated from God
 - your spirit is the real you, so your basic nature was sinful
 - spirit is the source of life; when your spirit departs, your body dies
 - psyche was dominant, fully functional, totally compatible with the world, demanded gratification
 - body also was functional, demanded gratification
 - your new identity (with Jesus)
 - spirit was born again when you accepted Jesus as Savior
 - your spirit is now “one” with God; Holy Spirit resident “within” you
 - your basic nature now is godly
 - your spirit is righteous, embraces the mind of Christ and God’s will
 - psyche is basically the same, wasn’t significantly changed by salvation
 - still is dominant, fully functional, demands gratification
 - still compatible with the world, except as you repent
 - body is unchanged

Human Spirit

- Key traits
 - eternal, exists in the spiritual realm, interacts with God
 - source of your character and human life
 - functions include: will, thought, knowledge, memory, intuition, revelation and your spiritual senses, among others
 - very stable or consistent
- God redeemed your spirit
 - when you accepted Jesus as Savior, God didn’t replace your spirit
 - he redeemed your sinful human spirit
 - your spirit is source of your nature
 - before salvation, you had sinful nature because your spirit was sinful
 - after salvation, you have godly nature because your spirit was transformed
 - 2 Co 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
- You no longer have a sin nature
 - your spirit is the real you; now it’s righteous
 - your spirit and Holy Spirit are compatible, “one”

Human Psyche

- Key traits
 - eternal, exists in spiritual realm
 - primary functions: thought, knowledge, memory, decisiveness among others
 - processes inputs from spirit and body based on its own way of thinking and decides what to do
 - can be very dynamic, even volatile
- God did not redeem your psyche
 - he purchased or reclaimed your psyche from sin
 - redemption of your psyche: repentance
 - “repent” (Gk, *metanoio*): change the way you think
 - you and God are both involved in redemption of your psyche
 - you *can't* do it without him; he *won't* do it without you

Human Body

- God did not redeem your physical body
 - it's the dwelling place of your spirit; also temple of Holy Spirit
 - your physical body is the only part of you God will not redeem
 - 1 Co 15:50, “I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”
 - 1 Co 6:19, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?”
- Background — Why God will not redeem your physical body
 - God made Adam lord of all creation, told him to subdue the earth (Gen 1:28)
 - God the Son, now called Jesus, sustains all things by his word (Heb 1:3)
 - the first Adam sustained his domain before he sinned
 - God put Adam in Garden of Eden to “work it and take care of it” (Gen 2:15)
 - when Adam sinned, his condition changed and so did the earth's
 - his authority over creation caused creation to fall, too
 - all of Adam's domain suddenly in “bondage to decay” (Ro 8:21)
 - God formed man from the “dust of the ground” (Gen 2:7), so our bodies are part of this world
 - God will replace our existing earth-based, temporal bodies with eternal bodies compatible with the spiritual realm
- Your body cannot be redeemed and does not voluntarily submit to your spirit

The Flesh

- “Flesh” in the Bible is translation of Greek *sarx*
 - *sarx* as a metaphor: A mindset oriented toward the world and our physical existence in it

- “debris” or “residue” from our sinful nature: worldly thinking, values, standards, priorities, perspectives; all those things we learned and perfected as sinners
- you have a “flesh,” because God didn’t redeem your psyche
- God redeemed our spirits, so now we have a righteous nature, which includes restored free will and spiritual authority
- God will not do anything in us without our permission and active involvement
- we’re to renew our minds; when we do our part, he does his
- God lets us choose to sin
 - he prevents our sin from affecting our spirits
 - Eph 1:13, “Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.”
 - “marked ... with a seal” (Gk, *sphragizo*): (1) put a seal on; (2) mark with a seal; (3) give or deliver safely
 - goal: security, preservation
 - Eph 4:30, “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”
 - “sealed” (Gk, *sphragizo*)
 - a protective coating or container, sealing you in to protect you from the corruption of the world, including your flesh
 - your redeemed spirit is sealed with Holy Spirit, doesn’t participate in the sin
 - your flesh conceives the sin and performs it
 - Rom 7:17-18, “As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my [flesh].”
 - God doesn’t judge you for your sin because Jesus paid penalty for it
 - but you will experience consequences of your sin
 - “works of the flesh” (Gal 5:19) are all those things you used to do as a sinner that were motivated by self-centeredness, compatible with the world system
 - doesn’t make you a sinner; but a Christian with a lot of self-inflicted problems
 - sin is no longer part of your identity or nature
 - Christians should not sin, but will
 - 1 Jn 1:8-10, “⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”
 - 2 Chron 7:14, “if my people, who are called by my name, will ⁽¹⁾ humble themselves and ⁽²⁾ pray and ⁽³⁾ seek my face and ⁽⁴⁾ turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”
 - Is sin a “wicked way” God says we should turn from?

- Jas 4:17, “Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.”
- Ro 14:23, “and everything that does not come from faith is sin.”
- two categories of “wicked ways” or sin all of us commit:
 - failing to do something we know we should do
 - doing something that’s not based on faith; e.g., anything based on our own ability
- Mk 12:30, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”
 - “soul” (Gk, *psyche*)
 - “mind” (Gk, *dianoia*): mind, way of thinking, thoughts
 - How self-focused can we be if all our psyche, mind, way of thinking and thoughts are focused on God?
- Mt 6:33, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
 - God’s kingdom: all he does, the extent of his authority
 - God’s righteousness: all he is, his nature
- we can’t serve two masters: God and ourselves
 - our spirits are committed to serving God
 - our psyches are committed to serving ourselves

Closing

- Your spirit is righteous, sealed, protected and preserved by the Holy Spirit
- Your body is not redeemed, will be replaced
- Your psyche is in process of being redeemed if you’re transforming or renewing your mind
 - Repentance is the process of conforming your mind to God’s word
- Your psyche still has debris from your former sinful nature, which is why you must renew it
- The battle in you is not between your godly and sinful natures, because your nature is your spirit, which is godly, not sinful
 - Instead, the internal battle is between your redeemed spirit and your flesh; primarily your old ways of thinking
- Repentance is the only way to put your flesh to death, to transform your mind to be compatible with the mind of Christ

Blessing

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. (1 Th 5:23-24)