



The Doctrine of Man - Part 9

Title: Man's Nature



What is the material body for?

Theologian Paul Enns outlines three views:

1. The body is the prison house of the soul.

This was the view of the Greek philosophers who placed a great dichotomy between the body and soul.

The soul was nonmaterial and good; the body was material and evil.

In this view, therefore, the body was depreciated.

However, it is unbiblical to place this kind of dichotomy between the material and nonmaterial.

The Bible does not refer to the body as intrinsically evil.

In fact, **the Song of Solomon** in its entirety focuses on the value of the human body and the bliss of married love and sexual expression.

Divine revelation makes it clear that “man is ... a unity—one being—and the material and immaterial can be separated only by physical death.”

(2) The body is the only part of man that is important.

This view is called **hedonism** and represents the opposite of the preceding view.

Hedonists suggest a person should seek to please the body by doing what he enjoys doing.

This philosophy is a denial of the soul.

The testimony of Jesus Christ invalidates this view inasmuch as Christ spoke of the enormous value of the soul as distinct from the body.

Matt 10:28 NLT:

28 “Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matt 16:26 NLT:

26 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

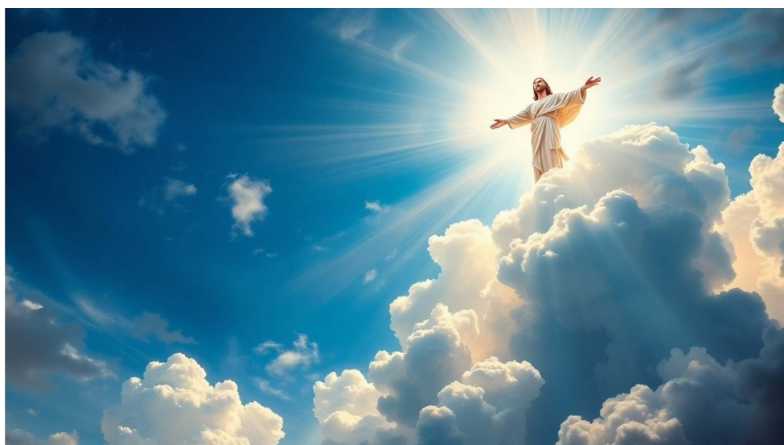
Other Scriptures also affirm the existence of the soul.

1 Cor 5:8 NLT:

8 So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread of sincerity and truth.

Eccl 12:7 NLT:

7 For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.



(3) The body is the partner of the soul.

The body is the means of glorifying God since it is the temple of God.

1 Cor 6:19 NLT:

19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself,

The body is not to be the master so that the believer caters to it in self-indulgence, nor is it to be an enemy that needs to be punished.

The body is to be submitted to God (Rom 12:1) in order that Christ may be glorified in that body (Phil 1:20).

Rom 12:1 NLT:

A Living Sacrifice to God

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

Phil 1:20 NLT:

Paul's Life for Christ

20 For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die.



Ultimately, the believer will be rewarded for deeds done in the body (**1 Cor 5:10**). (**Moody Handbook of Theology, p. 304**)

1 Cor 5:10 NLT:

10 But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that.

What symbols does Scripture use to refer to the whole person?

A. The ears.

1 Sam 3:11 KJV:

11 And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

B. The eyes.

Ps 25:15 KJV:

15 Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD;
for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

Lam 4:17 KJV:

17 As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help:

in our watching we have watched for a nation that could not save us.

Ezek 24:16 KJV:

16 Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down.

C. The lips.

Ps 63:3 KJV:

3 Because thy lovingkindness is better than life,
my lips shall praise thee.

Prov 10:21 KJV:

21 The lips of the righteous feed many:
but fools die for want of wisdom.

Heb 13:15 KJV:

15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

D. The mouth.

Ps 119:103 KJV:

103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste!

yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Prov 6:12 KJV:

12 A naughty person, a wicked man,

walketh with a froward mouth.

Jas 3:10 KJV:

10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

E. The tongue.

Ps 52:2 KJV:

2 Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs;

like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

Prov 15:4 KJV:

4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life:

but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

Jas 1:26 KJV:

26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

F. The arm.

Ps 10:15 KJV:

15 Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man:
seek out his wickedness till thou find none.

G. The fingers.

Prov 6:13 KJV:

13 He winketh with his eyes,
he speaketh with his feet,
he teacheth with his fingers;

H. The foot.

Pss 8:6 KJV:

6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands;
thou hast put all things under his feet:

Pss 47:3 KJV:

3 He shall subdue the people under us,
and the nations under our feet.

I. The hand.

2 Sam 22:21 KJV:

21 The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness:
according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed
me.

Isa 1:15 KJV:

15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes
from you:

yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear:

your hands are full of blood.

1 Tim 2:8 KJV:

8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands,
without wrath and doubting.

J. The knees.

Job 4:4 KJV:

4 Thy words have upholden him that was falling,
and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees.

Heb 12:12 KJV:

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

K. The neck.

Exod 32:9 KJV:

9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

Prov 29:1 KJV:

1 He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck,
shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

L. The shoulder.

Zech 7:11 KJV:

11 But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder,
and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.

M. The bones.

Pss 31:10 KJV:

10 For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing:
my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are
consumed.

Pss 32:3 KJV:

3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old
through my roaring all the day long.

N. The heart.

Pss 25:17 KJV:

17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged:
O bring thou me out of my distresses.

Pss 28:7 KJV:

7 The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusted in him, and I am helped:
therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth;
and with my song will I praise him.

Prov 14:10 KJV:

10 The heart knoweth his own bitterness;
and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

O. The face.

Gen 48:11KJV:

11 And Israel said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face:
and, lo, God hath shewed me also thy seed.

Deut 7:10KJV:

10 And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy
them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay
him to his face.



What does the Bible say about the inner person, the outer person, the old self, and the new self?

A. The inner person.

Rom 7:22 KJV:

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

1 Cor 4:16 KJV:

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

Eph 3:16KJV:

16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

B. The outer person.

1 Cor 4:16 KJV:

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

C. The old self.

Rom 6:6 KJV:

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Eph 4:22 KJV:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Col 3:9 KJV:

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

D. The new self.

Eph 2:15 KJV:

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new

Eph 4:24 KJV:

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Col 3:10 KJV:

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:



What are some incomplete views about man's nature?

Millard Erickson lists six unscriptural views:

A. Man is looked upon as a machine.

One prevalent perspective on the human is in terms of what he is able to do. ...

The chief concern of those who have this conception of man will be to satisfy those needs of the person (machine) which will keep him functioning effectively. ...

This view also creeps into the church to a degree.

Persons may be valued according to what they can do. ... In this approach, persons are basically regarded as things, as means to ends rather than as ends in themselves.

B. Man is looked upon as an animal.

Another view sees ... no qualitative difference between man and the other animals.

The only difference is one of degree. ... Knowledge of man is gained not through introspection, but by experimentation upon animals.

C. Man is looked upon as a sexual being.

Sigmund Freud regarded sexuality as the basic framework of man. ... In a rather crude fashion, the "Playboy" philosophy assumes that man is primarily a sexual being, and sex is the most significant human experience. ...

D. Man is looked upon as an economic being.

Another view is that economic forces are what really affect and motivate the human being.

In a sense, this view is an extension of the view that man is primarily a member of the animal kingdom.

It focuses upon the material dimension of life and its needs.

Adequate food, clothing, and housing are the most significant needs of the human.

E. Man is looked upon as a pawn of the universe.

Among certain existentialists particularly, but also in a broader segment of society, we find the idea that man is at the mercy of forces in the world which control his destiny but have no real concern for him.

These are seen as blind forces, forces of chance in many cases.

Sometimes they are personal forces, but even then they are forces over which man has no control, and upon which he has no influence, such as political superpowers.

This is basically a pessimistic view which pictures man as being crushed by a world which is either hostile or at best indifferent to his welfare and needs.

The result is a sense of helplessness, of futility....



F. Man is looked upon as a social being.

Then there is the perspective that man is fundamentally a member of society.

Membership in a group of persons is what really distinguishes him as human.

Someone who does not interact with other social beings is less than fully human.

This view sometimes includes the idea that the human being does not really have a nature as such.

The person is the set of relationships in which he is involved.
(Christian Theology, pp. 463-470)



How do we obtain the Forgiveness of our Sins?



How do we get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?

Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, in Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life and be my Lord and Savior.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have ever lasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and may HE use you to help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In, Jesus Mighty Name!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed