

Text, Context and The Soul

The Divine Conspiracy #2

**WHAT IS A HUMAN BEING:
The Current Battle Over Human
Nature And The Biblical View**

THE CURRENT BATTLE: IS THERE A HUMAN NATURE?

- As the human drive to total liberty developed into the 20th Century, it became fashionable to deny that human beings have a nature.
- Because nature was used as an argument for what people could (should) and could not (should not) do. We are familiar with many dimensions of this. John Dewey.

THE CURRENT BATTLE #2

- The swing against “nature” is seen all around us: Natural law cannot be invoked, nature cannot be invoked to support heterosexuality, man/woman ‘marriage,’ etc.
- Denying a human nature takes care of all the issues where desire wants free play at one fell swoop.
- But of course, this is a political position and has nothing to do with what is the case.

NOTHING LACKS A NATURE

A squirrel or a brussels sprout is a definite kind of thing that has the actual parts and properties it has, and therefore stands in the relations it does stand in. The parts and properties a thing has—including human beings—is not dependent upon what anyone thinks, feels or votes.

THE FALLEN HUMAN WILL REJECTS NATURE

- Because nature limits will and desire.
- God goes first. (Psalm 2:3, Rom. 1:21-23)
- “DEGRADING PASSIONS (vs. 26) then accept no limits in their drive to satisfaction.
- There is a certain sense in which: “If there is not God, everything is permitted.”

THE FALLEN HUMAN WILL REJECTS NATURE #2

- Turning to the body, men use it in every way possible to gratify desire. The nature of perversion. It is driven by unlimited desire for feeling.
- And they lose their mental capacity to discern good and evil. (Eph. 4:17-19)
- And form social institutions and arrangements accordingly. (Rom. 1:28-32)

THE ‘DISAPPEARANCE’ OF MORAL KNOWLEDGE

- When nature disappears, knowledge and truth disappear, because there is then nothing to be known.
- ‘Political Correctness’—that is, ‘correctness in someone’s view,’ is all that is left.
- This is now the rule in almost every institutional setting: courts, education, media and arts.

OF COURSE, IT'S ALL A SHAM

- What is good for human beings, and what is right for them to do, does not change fundamentally.
- But the human capacity to know the good and the right is distorted by the human will to fulfill desire.
- That is why a divine source of knowledge is essential to human life, as we have been told over and over.

THE “WHOLE LAW”

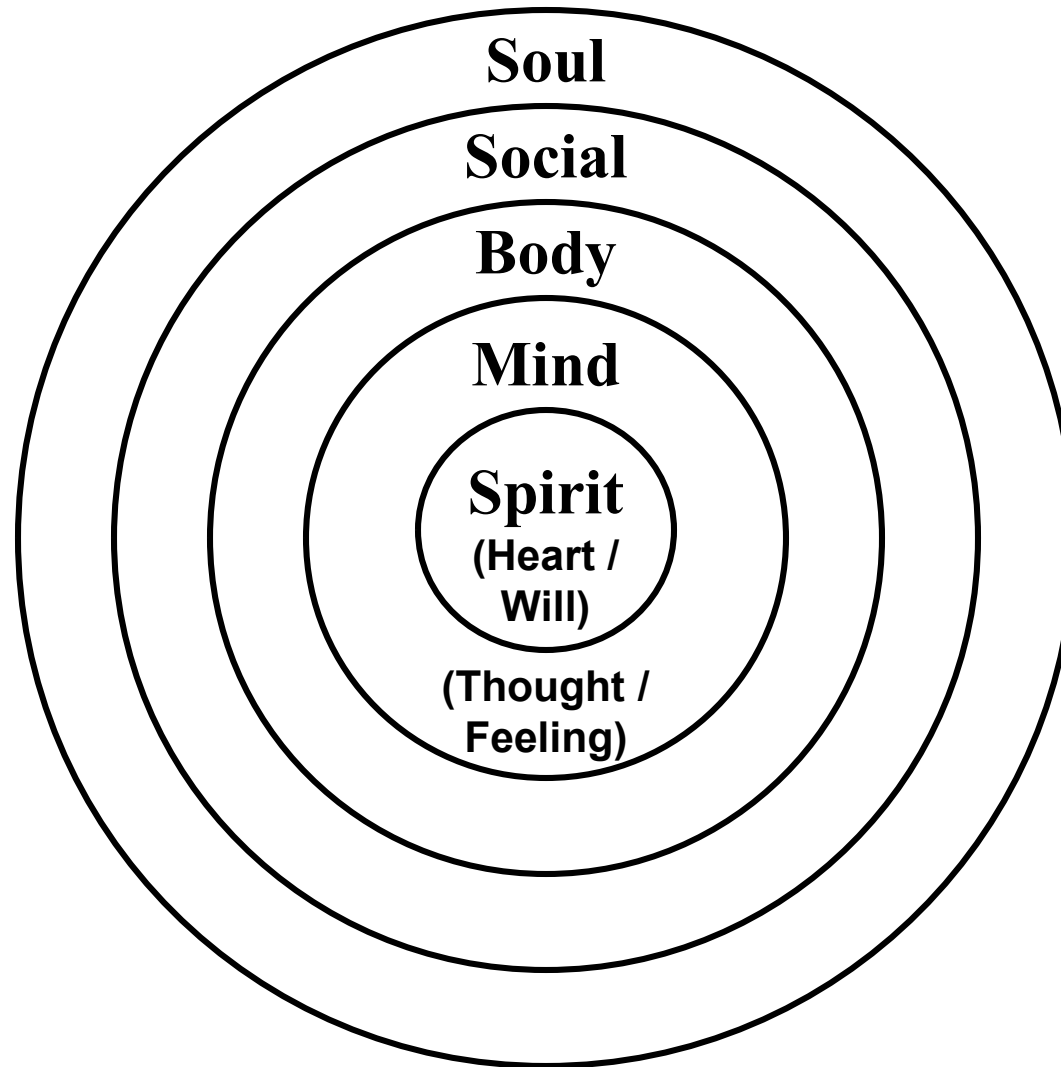
- Jesus summed up the whole law as loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 12:27)
- Paul said that to love one's neighbor fulfills the law. (Rom. 13:8-10)

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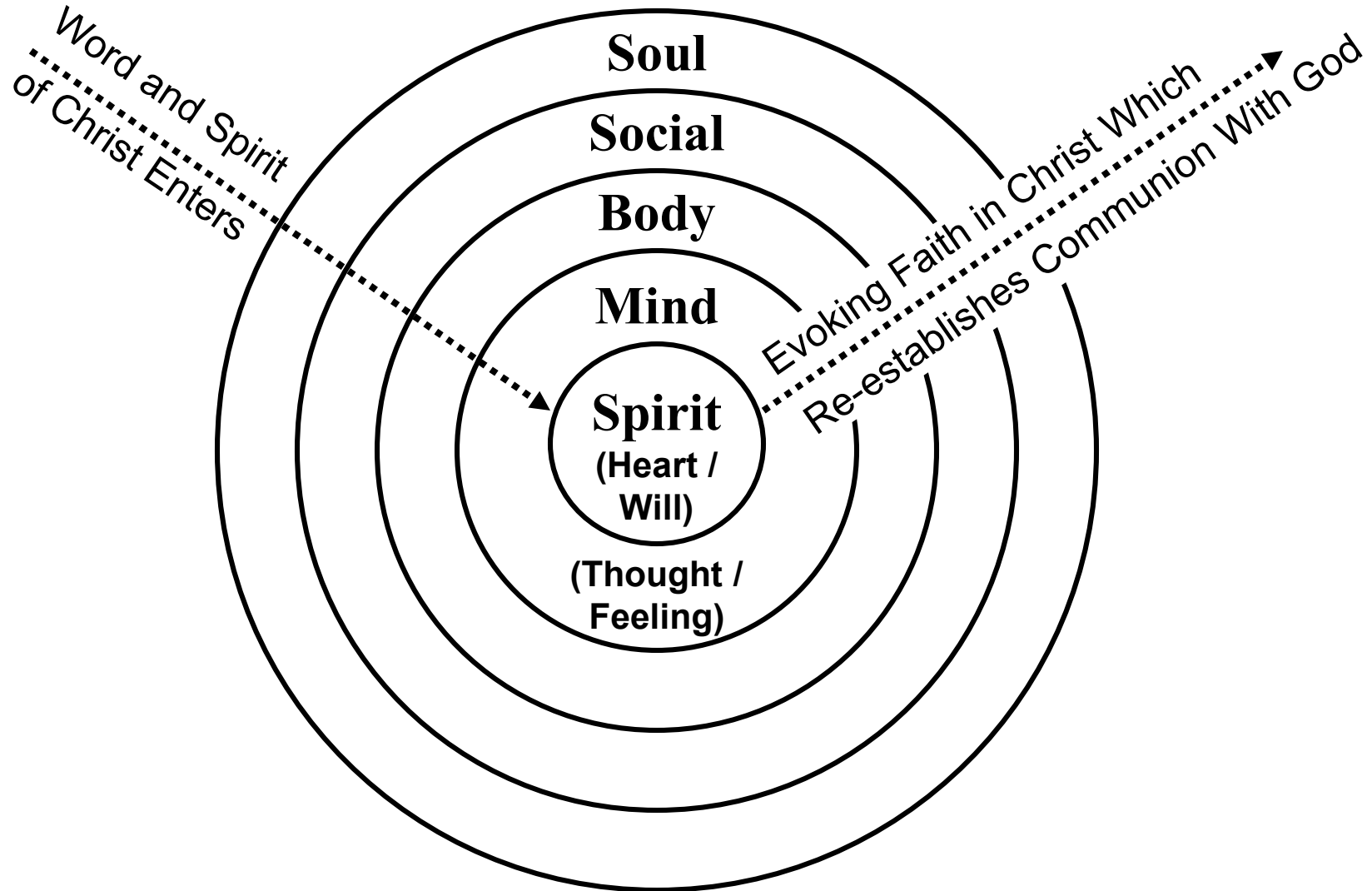
**Renovation of
the Heart, pg 38**

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THE HUMAN ROLE—TO *RULE CREATION WITH GOD*

- Gen. 1:26-28
- Psalm 8:4-9
- Isa. 63:12
- Luke 16:9-13 & 19:12-27
- Hebrews 2:5-9
- Rev. 22:5

Who You Are and Why You Are Here:

**You are a never ceasing spiritual being with
an eternal destiny in God's great universe.**

- **SPIRITUAL - In substance**
- **NEVER CEASING - In duration**
- **RULING - Creative governance
- In destiny**

“And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou has sent.” (John 17:3)

“And they shall reign forever and ever.” (Revelation 22:5)

Who You Are and Why You Are Here:

- Your life as a spiritual being is completed only by living in and from the kingdom/government of the heavens. Matthew 4:17 - *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."*
- That is, by trusting Jesus Christ, Who brings us into the rule of God, and through our discipleship to Him enables us to fulfill the creation covenant of Genesis 1:26-31— **FOR ETERNITY!**

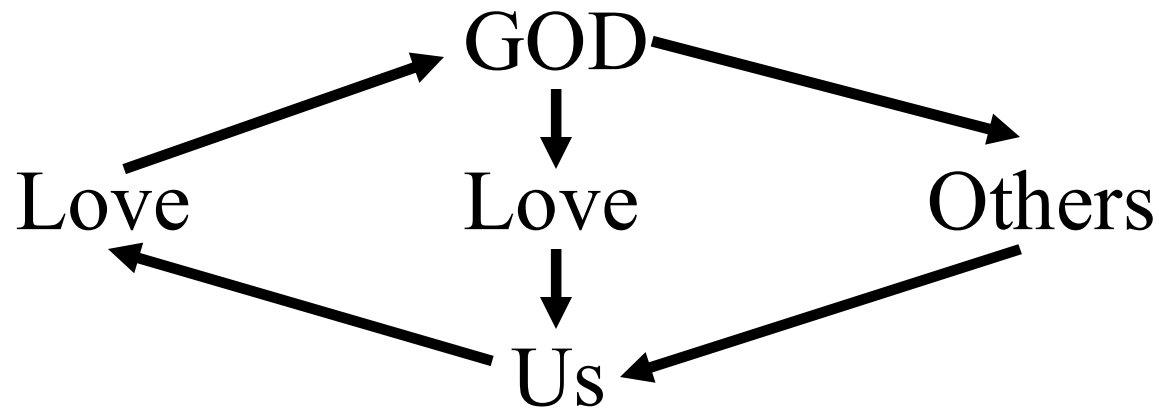
TO LOVE IS TO WILL THE GOOD OF THE BELOVED

- The good of someone (or something) is what enables them to flourish and fulfill their function.
- It is not necessarily what they desire, and may be what they do not desire.
- To know what God wills for things enables us to know what is good for them.

FULLY POSSESSED BY LOVE

- To love God, to love Jesus, with every dimension of our being puts us in position to be a fully functioning human being. If any part is still governed by self-will we will malfunction.
- Love of God is a personal reality that possesses our being and enables us to live a free and joyous life. Beyond legalism. We fulfill the law because we are that way.

The Mature Life of Light, of Love, Truth and Power



- This is the structure of perfected love that CASTS OUT FEAR.
- *1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*
- Then we can stand to live in TRUTH
- And then we can be trusted with POWER

THE ABOLITION OF MAN

C. S. LEWIS

In contrast, if man is made ultimate, causal force will eventually rule and thereby “abolish” humanity, by making everything subject to the thrust of desire: the desires of some few who are able to gain the upper hand by force.

THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

God's aim is to defeat this dreadful declension from God's world and God's kingdom by bringing out a world and history-wide community of people who have the character and power of Jesus Christ himself.