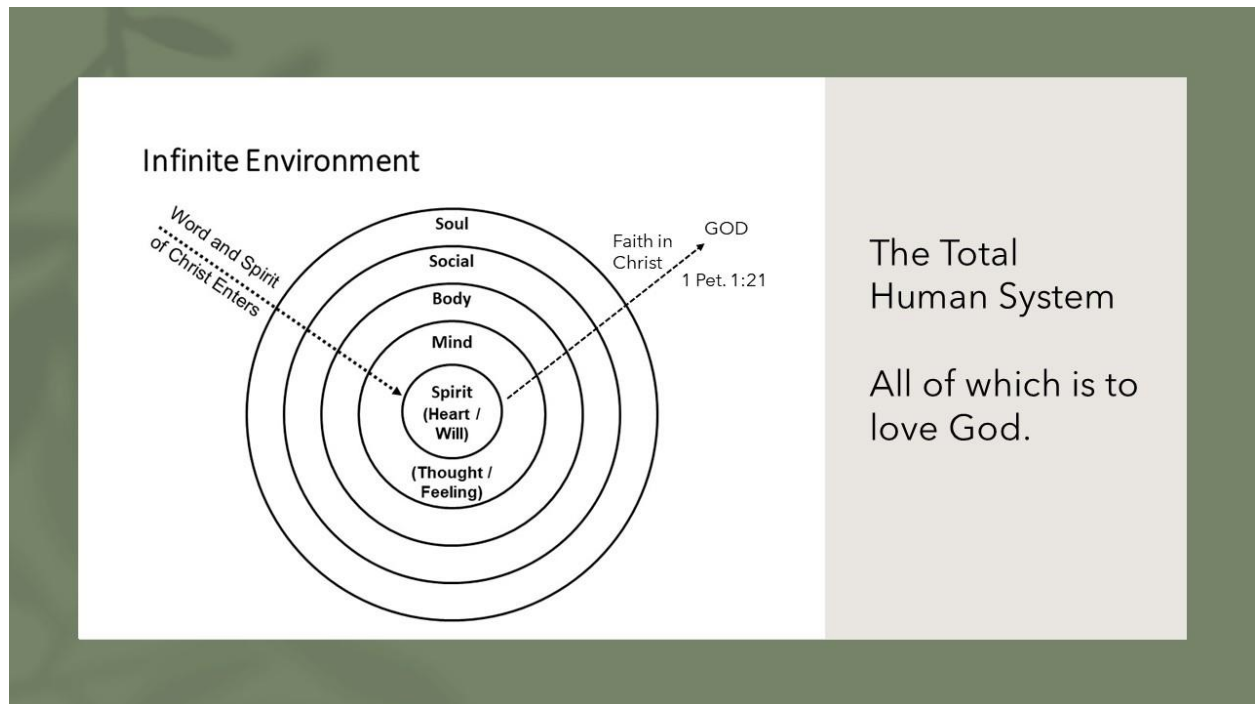


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1. The Whole System / The Whole Person

Although we talk about each of these parts separately, each part is not a separate thing that you work on independent of one another. These make up the person and are not separable. This is the whole human system - all of which is to _____.

a. Desire

As we talk about the human system, we come to understand verses like Psalm 37:4 *Delight thyself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

You have to understand that what you desire when you *don't* delight yourself in the Lord is very different from what you desire when you *do* delight yourself in the Lord. When you delight yourself in the Lord, the first thing that happens is your desires begin to _____. The person who delights themselves in the Lord has a _____ set of desires than the one who doesn't delight themselves in the Lord.

God gives you "good wants."

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Desire is an orientation of the whole person.

- The problem that comes to the individual whose mind and will and body and all that is turned away from God is that they live for their _____.
 - It doesn't have to be that way; you do not have to live for your desires.
 - There is something better to live for, and that's what is _____.
- Your will is meant to be driven and directed by what is _____, not by what you _____.
 - Desire becomes a huge force - an obsessive force.
 - If you give way to it and don't have alternative sources of life, desire will trap you. That's the path of destruction.
 - Without the _____ of God, that is inevitably going to happen.

b. Accepting or Rejecting the Knowledge of God

Romans 1 is a story about what happens when people reject the knowledge of God.

- Verse 18: *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness."*
 - *The truth is suppressed.* It isn't that you can't find it, it's that you don't _____ it. That's the problem.
 - The bitterness of truth is it does not care for your desires. You can desire all you want and the truth just stands there unaffected. If you want what you want when you want it, you're going to _____ the truth because the truth stands there and says **No**. You want to run your life? **No. You can't do it.** You try; it's just a question of time, something else will take over.
 - Is the knowledge of God available? Yes. But you can _____ it.
 - You have to _____ knowledge. If you don't want it to be true, you can reject it.



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- Verse 21 of Romans 1: *"For even though they knew God, they did not honor him or glorify him as God, or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing themselves wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man...."*
 - Watch what people worship in place of God; eventually they reach out to the things they think will _____.
- Verse 24, *"Therefore God gave them over in the lust of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored, the truth of God is exchanged for a lie."* Verse 26, *"For this reason God gave them up to degrading passions...."*
 - This is the _____ path of human ruin.
 - This is why the Scriptures speak over and over about lusts.
- Peter lays out the path that we go, and he says (2 Peter 1:2-4): *"May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus, he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature."*
 - Grace and peace are multiplied in the knowledge of God.
 - Jesus' divine power has granted us _____ pertaining to life and godliness. How much does that leave out? _____. Everything is provided.
 - Jesus' divine power grants us divine nature through the knowledge of God and escape from the corruption that is in the world (*epithumia*, which is defined by Dallas in [*Why Am I Here? The Four Great Questions in Life – Part 1*](#) as "obsessive desire").

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See illustration of *The Total Human System* on p. 1 of this study guide and pages 21-40 in *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ* (Dallas Willard, NavPress, 2021).

Now, the _____ person has to be turned away from following their desires. They turn back to following God, and that is why Jesus says you come to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and all your strength, and your neighbor as yourself. That is, everything is oriented toward God, and God is working in us in response.

The spirit or will is dead to God by being turned away from him. The word of Christ, then, comes into the will through the mind and through all of these other parts. It fights its way through and reaches the will, and by the power of the Word and the Spirit, the will becomes alive to God.

1 Peter 1:21: *"Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God."* The arrow comes out, brings us back to God. We, who believe through Christ, do believe in God. That reestablishes the connection back to God, and we have divine life working in us. As Paul says, *"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand..."* (Romans 5:1-2).

Now then, the battle breaks out within us because, in all of these parts, we are habitually set against God. Coming to life in God means that we are now in the process of subduing all of this with God, so that the whole person is turned back to God.

- God is after _____, and character is not formed by miracles. It is not formed by outside events. It's formed by the _____ taking shape and investing itself in all of the parts of the person. This is the deep lesson theologically and psychologically behind discipleship.

Discipleship is the process by which all of the aspects of the person are brought to love God.

Discipleship is the process through which all of the dimensions of personality come to the love of God.

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2. The Parts

a. The Spirit, Will, or Heart

Your spirit or heart or will is the executive center of the self. It's where _____ are made. It's the part of you that God has created and put in you so that you could be creative. The will initiates – *radically initiates*. It is in this respect the part of us which most resembles God. We have to handle that very carefully, or we're apt to think of separating the will from the rest of this arrangement. You can't do that.

Your will is to be _____. It is where you are to exercise dominion. It initiates events and processes that wouldn't happen otherwise, and you invest yourself in things through your will in a way that you do not in any other way.

- What you create is especially you. If you create chaos, that's especially your chaos. If you create evil, that's especially yours. Create good, that's yours. You contribute that. That's why you matter, and that's why the will is so important.
 - God _____ simply overrides the human will.

b. The Mind

Your mind includes both your thoughts and your feelings. You never have _____ without feelings, and you never have _____ without thoughts.

- Your will works in terms of what is in your thoughts and in your feelings.
 - Your feelings are basically _____ directed toward something.
 - Your thoughts are your ways of _____ things.
 - Your feelings and your thoughts are related because, if you have feelings, they're normally about something and what they're about is represented to you by your thoughts.

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- There is an interesting interplay between the _____ and the _____. You can see immediately why Paul would talk about transformation through the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2: *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."*) You can work on that! You can do something about that. And that's the key to what we're doing here.
- How do you think about things?

What's the most important thing you think about?

God and you.

How do you think about yourself, how do you think about God? That's why having an appropriate image, mental grasp of God, is absolutely basic to everything.

Remember I said earlier, how you think about God, how we think about God, is the foundation of all human troubles. Thinking wrongly about God, everything is ruined. Satan came to Eve and got her to think wrongly about God. What's the basic thought? "Listen, Eve, you can't trust God. You've got to look out. You're going to miss out on something."

Hey, little thought there. Hmm. I know that thought.

That's the basic issue – how you think about God. That's why when Jesus comes, he does give us the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

What is the gospel?

News about God!

Where is God?

He's right here.

That's news! God is here. Not far away. You are not alone!

*...You'll never walk alone.... unless you decide to...and then God will give you a little space. Maybe that's hell, walking alone forever.... What a way of thinking about that! ...And being the kind of person who would choose that over being with God—now you're stuck with that. That's your character. **Bad news.***

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- **The Good News** — *God so loved the world.*
 - See how your mind is directed; it affects your feelings!
 - Your feelings are largely determined by your thoughts.

c. The Body

Your body is the place where you live in your social context. Your body is given to you to serve as a way of living _____. That's a good thing. Your body is trained in such a way that it acts. For the most part that's good, but it also takes on a lot of habits that are wrong.

You have to go through a _____ to change the body in the social setting.

d. The Social

The social realm is the realm where we relate to other people. Human beings are deeply relational, and their bodies are keyed to act from their social context _____ than from their _____.

- For example, consider the story of Peter's denial: Peter thought he could live from his will - "I will never deny you." Jesus didn't say to Peter, "Oh, now, you don't mean that!" He did mean it. But Peter did not know what was in his body. And he didn't understand how a social context would trigger stuff that was in his body that was exactly _____ of his _____.

e. The Soul

The soul is that part of you that weaves all the other parts together to make one life. Our souls are broken, and that's why the things that are in these other areas often do not match up. In Romans 7, Paul gives us the classic expression of the broken soul: "The things that I would do, I don't do. And the things I would not, I wind up doing." That's a broken soul.