

SONSHIP: How to Deal with the Flesh

The ‘flesh’ prevents us from walking in the spirit and from growing in spiritual maturity. It prevents us from operating as Sons of God should. According to New Testament teaching, the ‘flesh’ must be excised – killed and removed. However, from the place of Sonship, there is a different way to deal with the ‘flesh’ than the endless struggle that seems to go on day after day.

Here are the steps in changing your mindset in how to deal with your ‘flesh’:

1. Recognise that your spirit is the real ‘You’
2. Work to allow your spirit to be in charge

(1) Your Real Self¹

You will have been taught that you are a triune being: a whole made up of three parts that work together. This of course refers to our body, soul and spirit. We could of course identify more than 3 parts, but this schema is the breakup that categorizes the specific areas that we operate from.

- The body is obvious, we can see it and feel it. We can speak from it and sense with it.
- Our soul is usually defined as being composed of our mind, will and emotions. This of course is not arbitrary, but arguments could be made for a different combination.
- Our spirit is not obvious as it is invisible to our natural senses.

We are educated in society to believe that we only have a body and soul. This is because the secular humanists who control education, the sciences and the media are predominantly atheists. They do not believe in the spirit world or in a divine, all-powerful being within that world that is in total control of the natural realm. Consequently, from birth we grow and develop our body and soul, while we ignore our spirit.

It is not until we are touched by Holy Spirit in a variety of ways that we wake up to the fact that we have a spirit. Then begins the process of ‘growing’ in our spirit-life, or more accurately, learning to operate with our spirit, and doing it more confidently.

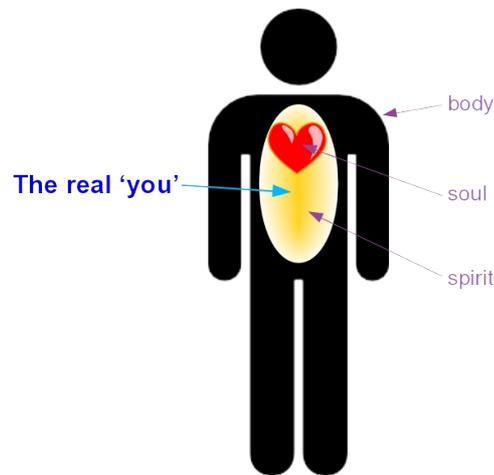
Because we didn’t discover our spirit at birth, we usually relegate it to a place of minimal importance. Also, the training we receive in the institutional churches causes us to focus continually on the battle between the parts of our being. To reinforce the way we normally operate, the world sees our body and connects with our soul, but is oblivious to our spirit. All this creates a dilemma – “Who really am I?”

This perplexing situation causes great angst among the saints and significantly influences their failure to grow to maturity as Kingdom sons. Fortunately, there is a solution, a truth that allows a person to be more comfortable with who they are. It also helps answer the question, “Why am I here?”

God spoke to Jeremiah and told him that he knew him before he was conceived.² How fantastic! This is not just one isolated scripture, it’s a spiritual reality that runs hidden throughout scripture. It means that we were with Father as a spirit before we were placed in our body. This shows that the real person is our spirit, not our body.

1 – Material in this topic sub-taken from my Lesson #2 for Canberra School For Prophets

2 – Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV) – “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;”



The Triune Being of all Humans

(2) Managing Yourself

Once we recognise the key that our ‘real’ self is our spirit, and not our body, we can then concentrate on growing to maturity spiritually because we’ve recognised who we really are.

The next key is to recognise that the ‘flesh’ originates from within our soul, the second member of our body’s components.

The soul was originally the connection between our spirit and the spirit realm, and our body and the natural realm. However, after The Fall, when our spirit was diminished to fit inside our body and our direct connection with Heaven was cut off, our soul ascended over our spirit and dominated it. Since our birth, our soul has been the component that has controlled our being and from it our ‘flesh’ has grown so that our desires became our aim in living.

The Sons of God walk in the spirit³, but this takes time as it is one of the features of mature sons, not immature sons who’ve just come into the Kingdom. This maturing is a process because the ‘flesh’ (read ‘soul’ from now on) is at odds with the spirit⁴ and needs to be brought into line so that our spirit is in charge.

We know we are told to focus on the spirit and not on the soul as this is what our Father wants⁵, but this only exacerbates the struggle we endure⁶. We grit our teeth and try hard not to let our soul control us, but we fail miserably. The end for many in this process is to give up because it’s too hard. It’s easier for them to let the soul rule so that the pain of failure in the struggle is eliminated.

Here’s where our understanding of who we really are comes into play. Rather than struggling in a religious way to bring our soul into line with our spirit, the alternative is that we can look at the reality of who we are and operate out of that position.

If our real self is our spirit which has come out of eternity with Father – and, by the way, it’s our spirit that will move into eternity, not our body – then this is the component of our being we must nurture so that it gains complete ascendancy. This is the way we actually become ‘ourselves’ – who we were created to be.

3 – Romans 8:14

4 – Galatians 5:17

5 – Romans 8:5

6 – Romans 7:15

Some will say, “I’ll lose my personality if I do that!” Well, here’s the thing – do you want to be your real self, the one you were created to be, the one that brings you into a fuller relationship with Father? Or do you want the personality that the world, your culture and your circumstances have created which is at odds with being a Kingdom son and will be done away with when you enter eternity anyway?

Here’s how it works. Desire to be your real self and not your temporary, earthly self and do everything to encourage your spirit. At the same time, do everything to discourage your soul from being in charge. You can’t kill your soul as it’s part of your being that was given to humanity at creation and it serves a subservient purpose. The aim is to recognise when your soul is in control of what you’re doing and immediately cease its desire if it is at odds with your spirit’s well-being.

The end result will be the same as the admonitions in the New Testament to die to yourself, but it is done from the standpoint of being yourself – being a Son – and not from having to do something that you’ve been told you must do. As a Son you have a stake in this process, just as the Israelites did when they finally entered the Promised Land: they had an inheritance to acquire.

Doesn’t this make life in the spirit – operating as a Son – so much more simple, sensible and logical?

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