

THE NATURE(s) OF OUR BEING

I. CONTEXT for WHO AM I, ANYWAY

A. Why Ask Selves ?

1. Importance of question \neq source of info
2. Recognize that we exist prior to our awareness of self
 - a. we *are* someone
 - b. myth of self-made person (wealth not personality)
 - c. not saying we have no part in shaping but...
3. Not want to go through life without thinking
 - a. want to live the way intended
 - b. sense of responsibility for/toward self
4. Believe that answer will give meaning to life
 - a. identity tied to destiny
 - b. discover right place to fit

B. What Are We Really Asking ?

1. How did I get to be me ?
 - a. who or what made me
 - b. a question of origin
2. How do I work ?
 - a. what are all my parts ?
 - b. is everything ok ?
 - c. a question of (mental) health
3. What is the right way for me to live ?
 - a. if a loner \rightarrow aloof
 - b. if creative \rightarrow create
 - c. a moral question (right and wrong)

- Summary
4. Connection between origin, being and destiny

C. What The Bible Says

1. Authoritative source -- explaining the heart of God
 - a. created (≠ accidental) out of longing and love
 - b. to enjoy life to its fullest
 - c. to have relationship with God
2. Whole context within which to answer question
 - a. cannot start with self and work out
 - b. must start in the beginning; from the source (outside)

Genesis 1:1; 26-31

II. THE NATURE(S) OF OUR BEING

A. The Nature of Our World(s)

1. Natural world influenced by both physical and spiritual
 - a. physical forces and laws
 - b. spiritual forces and laws
2. Natural world made of material/immaterial things

B. The Dimensions of Our Being

1. Body ("flabby thing")
 - a. physique
 - b. physical substance
2. Soul ("breathing life") -- gives life to body
 - a. personality
 - b. natural composition
3. Spirit ("blowing current") -- gives life to soul
 - a. vitality
 - b. spiritual essence

C. Comparing and Contrasting the Dimensions

1. Body and soul

- a. thoughts vs. sensations
- b. emotions vs. instincts
- c. choices vs. reflexes
- d. beliefs vs. actions
- e. desires vs. appetites

2. Spirit and soul

- a. God's ways and thoughts and heart and will
- b. very different/higher than ours

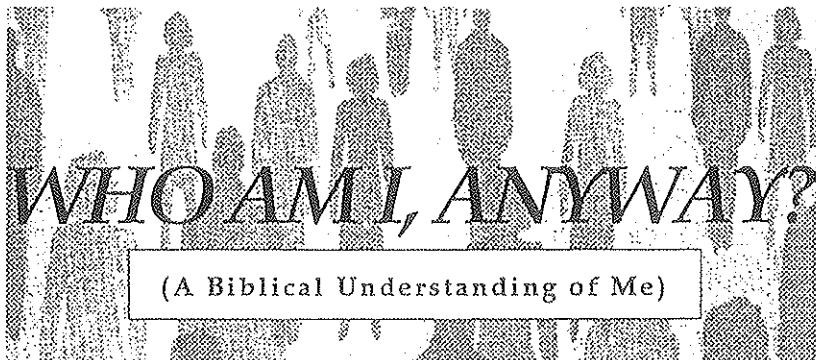
D. Understanding the Two Natures (Romans 6-8)

1. Old person

- a. body of sin serving unrighteousness
- b. lusts of flesh, deeds of flesh
- c. body and soul only -- separated from God/spiritual
- d. presented parts of self as slaves to impurity and lawlessness
 - walk and think according to flesh
 - hostile to God; unsubmitted to Him



Daniel A. Brown, Ph.D.
 The Coastlands
 April 7, 1991

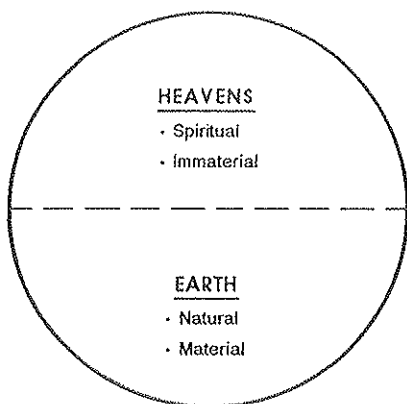


WHO AM I, ANYWAY?

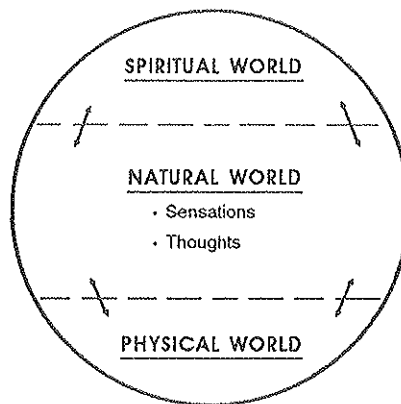
(A Biblical Understanding of Me)

Understanding the Nature(s) of Our Being

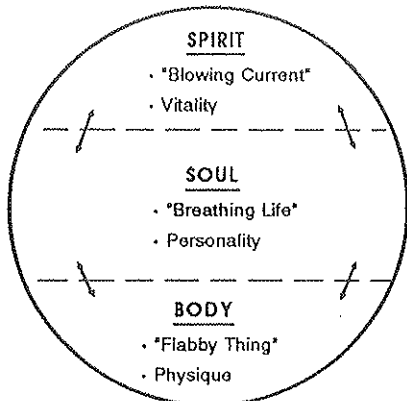
In The Beginning



Three Kinds of Worlds



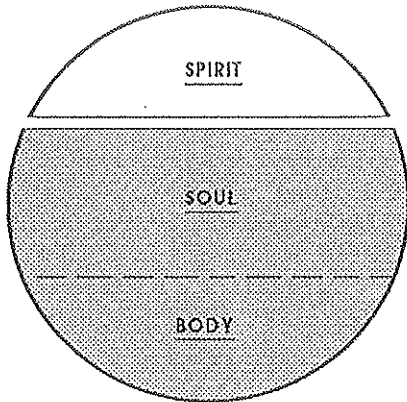
Same Being; Different Dimensions



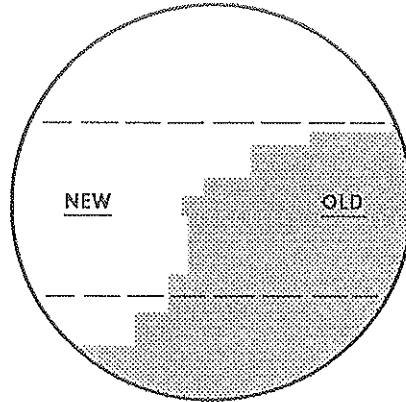
Similar Yet Different

SOUL	BODY
Thoughts	Sensations
Emotions	Instincts
Choices	Reflexes
Beliefs	Actions
Desires	Appetites

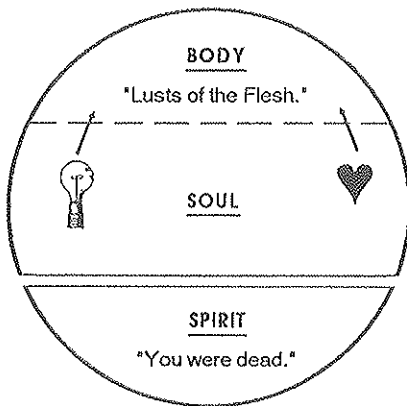
The Old Nature



Two Natures



Old Nature



New Nature

