

## Chapter Seven: Man, the Image of God, Part Two



*The heart is the center of our personality, the orientation for good or evil that drives all our thoughts, decisions, and feelings. The heart is who we are when all the masks are off. Your heart is who you really and truly are, as God sees you.”*

### The Human Constitution

**The genius of biblical faith:** we are dust (*body*), in contrast with Platonism, Gnosticism, and other philosophies that despise material existence; but also more than dust because of God’s breath of life (*soul, spirit, intellect, emotions, will, mind, heart*), in contrast with Positivism, Naturalism, and other philosophies that deny anything *but* material existence. See Gen 2:7; Ecc 12:7; 1 Th 5:23; Jas 2:26.

**We are body:** “Significantly, Jesus came to earth not as a ghost, not as an immaterial being, but as a man with a body” (p. 92 - see In I: 14). His resurrection was physical, as will be his return (Acts 1:11; Rev 1:7). Likewise, our resurrection and enjoyment of eternal life will be physical (Job 19:26; 1 Th 4:16; Isa 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pt 3:13; Rev 19:9).

**We are more than body:** God also gave us an immaterial side to our being, sometimes called *soul*, (Gen 2:7; 1 Th 5:23; Rev 6:9-10), sometimes called *spirit* (Mt 26:41; Lk 24:39; 1 Co 2:11; 7:34; 2Co 7:1; Heb 12:23)

---

### Whole Persons, in (Surprise!) Three Perspectives

#### We are mind

What we know affects what we do and what we feel

**“Teach me your way, O Lord ...” (Ps 86:11a)**

#### We are will.

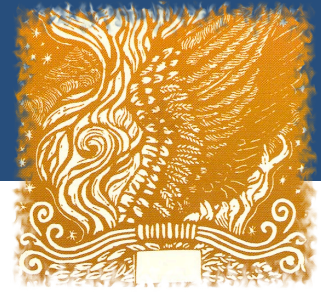
What we think and how we feel depend on the choices we make (see Rom 1:18,21; Jn 13:17)

**“...I will walk in your truth ...” (Ps 86:11b)**

#### We are emotion.

How we feel affects how we think and what we decide (Pr 1:7; Ps 73:1-2,21-22; Ps 119:129; Neh 8:10)

**“... Unite my heart to fear Your name” (Ps 86:11c)**



## Human Freedom & Responsibility

**God is sovereign and we are responsible moral agents** — What light does Lk 12:47-48 shed on the question of our responsibility, answerability, and freedom as moral agents?

### Freedom: Three Views

- **Libertarian Freedom** — “Free human acts are not caused by anything” — not by God, not by our will; they are totally random. Not scriptural.
- **Compatibilist Freedom** — “The ability to do what we want to do.” Scriptural.
- **Moral Freedom** — “The freedom to sin or to do good.” Problem: as sinners, we are enslaved to sin ... we cannot *not* sin until Jesus liberates us so that in him we are “free indeed” (In 8:36; Rom 8:21).
- **Stages in our liberation from sin**
  - **Innocence** before the fall, when Adam and Eve were good but able to fall (*posse peccare*).
  - **Bondage** created by the fall, by which we became bad and unable to do anything good, not able not to sin (*non posse non peccare*).
  - **Regeneration** by the work of the Spirit on the basis of the work of Christ, making it possible for us not to sin (*posse non peccare*).
  - **Glorification** upon resurrection, when we will be good and not able to sin (*non posse peccare*).

---

## The Human Task

**The Cultural Mandate** — Gen 1:26-30 — fill the earth with godly people through procreation

**The Great Commission** — Mt 28: 18-20 — fill the earth with godly people through evangelism

**Three Perspectives on the Great Commission:**

