

*Basic Christian Doctrine #7*  
**THE DOCTRINE OF MAN, Part 2**

Psalm 8:4

“What is man that You are mindful of him,  
And the son of man that You visit him?”

**INTRODUCTION**

To understand what God has provided for man, it is important to have a knowledge of man's nature and need. Without being exhaustive I want to, as simply as I can, outline the main feature of man's origin, history, and destiny. And I will do so under the three key words:

- 1) Creation
- 2) **Degeneration**
- 3) **Regeneration**

The Bible teaches that a person is made up of spirit, soul, and body. There are those who believe that man has a dual nature of spirit and body. They treat soul and spirit as identical and not separate elements. While it is true that the spirit and soul are sometimes used as interchangeable terms in the bible, in the majority of cases they are used as separate and contrasted terms. For example:

The three elements to man's being are:

**(1) The Body.**

*Gen.2:7*: “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground...”

-The physical body is the house of the soul and spirit, and additionally is the temple of the Holy Spirit for believers.

**(2) The Soul** (*Gen.2:7*; *1 Cor.15:45*)

*Rom.1:20*: “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse...”

-The soul is the central part of man, the hub of our little universe. Within the soul, there are all the powers that go to make up what we call personality. The soul contains heart, mind, and will.

(1) Within the soul there is the ***mind***, the source of knowledge and intelligence (*1 Cor.2:11*).

(2) Then there is the ***heart***, which is not merely a muscle of the body, but the source of love and affection, and is also a source of consciousness (*Heb.10:22*).

(3) There is also the ***will***, giving man the capacity to choose, act or decide.

(4) Within the soul there is also conscience, God's witness in man's soul. However, the conscience can become seared and weakened by sin (1 Tim.4:2; Heb.13:18).

(3) **The Spirit** (Gen.2:7).

-God breathed into the nostril of Adam the spirit of life. We now come to the deepest, and eternal part of man.

-In his spiritual nature, man is akin to God, and therefore has infinite possibilities of spiritual development. The spirit is the essential part of man's nature, the heart of all human life.

## **2) MAN'S DEGENERATION** (Rom.3:9-23; 1:18-32; 5:12-19).

Man was created to live in perfect accord and fellowship with his Creator, and to be at peace within himself, and in harmony with his environment. Tragically man forfeited his holy and blessed position through sin.

Sin brought a schism into man's nature where the lower dominated and controlled the higher. Man apart from grace has the mind of the flesh (Rom.8:7-8); is spiritually dead (Eph.2:1); under wrath and judgment (John 5:28-29; Psa.130:3; Rom.2:5-12; Eph.2:3); utterly lost (Luke 19:10); a guilty sinner before God (Psa.14:2-3; Isa.53:6; Rom.3:9-23); a child of the devil and under the control of satan (Eph.2:2).

## **3) MAN'S REGENERATION**

Having marred the image of God through sin, sinners should not rest until that image is restored in Christ. Now they have the devil's image in pride, malice, and envy. God's image, however, consisting of knowledge and righteousness, can be recovered (Col.3:10) *Col.3:10*: "And have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him..."

-God alone is able to repair the damaged image of Himself through the new birth (John 3:3-7; 1 Cor.6:9-11; 2 Cor.3:18).

-Such a restoration became possible when Christ, the true Image of the Invisible God (Heb.1:3; Col.1:15), took upon Himself our human nature and our sins, and redeemed us from the consequences of the fall.

## **APPLICATIONS**

1. The centrality of the soul gives it a vital place of importance. Therefore its purity needs to be protected and spiritual growth nourished.

This outline was prepared by Pastor Joe Jacowitz  
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Reference: Dr. Herbert Lockyer