

APPLYING TRUTH TO LIFE

*Grace Gatherings*

THEOLOGY NIGHTS | JANUARY 24, 2024

GRACE CHURCH  
WILLIAMSBURG

# Question 10

Provide a biblical description of the **dichotomist** view of mankind. Explain the **counseling implications** of this doctrine regarding the inner and outer man.

Defining the issue in terms of church life and ministry:

The **image of God** in mankind is the **basis** for how we view ourselves. Most people are entirely ignorant of this reality about themselves.

And many Christians are not taught the fundamental relevance of this doctrine nor its implications for **living in spiritual community** as God's people.

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Defining the issue in terms of church life and ministry:

Most Christians do not know how to view themselves biblically as a spiritual soul housed in a physical body.

But the implications of the **interplay/relationship** between your soul and body defines what you do and how you do it each moment of your life.

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Defining the issue in terms of church life and ministry:

How we minister to each other, how we approach **caring for** each other and **building up** one another for faithful spiritual living together, depends on **how** we understand **who** and **what** we are and **why** we are here.

That's true about any relationship we have -- we will relate to others based on what we believe about who they are, who we are, and how we believe people **function** in life.

# Question 10

- **Who are we?**
- What makes us human?
- We are skin and bones, we are matter, but is that all we are?
- Are we more than what we can see and touch?
- If yes, then **how many parts** are there to our human personhood?
- Does the Bible tell us anything helpful and defining about this?

# Question 10

**YES!**

God made us and wants us to know who we are in relationship to Him.

Question 10 asks us to explain an important aspect of our **anthropology** (biblical understanding of mankind).

What is the biblical description of a **dichotomist** view of mankind?

# Question 10

According to Scripture, there is a **dual** (dichotomous) reality to personhood.

**Dichotomy** - from Greek word meaning to cut in two or to divide into two parts.

However, dichotomos  $\neq$  division.

# Question 10

**Dichotomy** = two essential aspects to human nature.

**Dichotomism** = the view that people are made up of **both** a **material body** and an **immaterial soul**.

- The Bible **distinguishes** these aspects, but it **never divides** them. They are two aspects of the entire whole of being human. They **operate together**. You are a **spiritual** being in a **physical** body -- your body is home for your soul.



# Question 10

**Dichotomy** = two essential aspects to human nature.

**Dichotomism** = the view that people are made up of **both** a **material body** and an **immaterial soul**.

- What is the only thing that separates our current physical bodies from our souls? Death, due to sin. But even that's only temporary for both believers and unbelievers (John 5:28-29).

# Question 10

- Genesis 2:7
- Ecclesiastes 12:7
- Matthew 10:28
- 1 Corinthians 7:34
- James 2:26

# Question 10

 **Monism**: the view that we are only matter (body)

- We are lumps of thinking stuff. What goes on inside us, our mental and spiritual activities, is the result of chemical processes in the brain.
- There is no soul, no spirit, **no immaterial** aspect to being human.

# Question 10

 **Trichotomism**: the view that there are three aspects to us: body, soul, and spirit

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- Hebrews 4:12
- Luke 10:27

“Scripture gives us the immaterial aspect of the person different terms, but not every designation means a distinguishable part.” (John MacArthur)

# Question 10

⊘ **Trichotomism**: the view that there are three aspects to us: body, soul, and spirit

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- Hebrews 4:12
- Luke 10:27
- John 12:27; 13:21

- **psyche** = soul

- **pneuma** = spirit

using different words to refer to the same thing

- Emphasizing in vivid terms Jesus is **deeply troubled**; His **inner** man is experiencing profound grief

# Question 10

**Functions** and **emphases** regarding our souls:

- **Volition** (choice): our **will**
- **Cognition** (thinking/reasoning): our **mind**
- **Emotion** (feeling): our **heart**
- Our sense of **right/wrong**: our **conscience**
- Our sense of our **inner** self: our **spirit** (soul)

The most **common** term the Bible uses for your inner person is your **heart**.

# Question 10

What is your **heart** as God sees and defines it?

- That place where we find the real you, in you
- The core of your personhood and identity
- The seat and center of who you are, and where every motive, desire, and plan for what you say and do **begins**.

# Question 10

Is the heart the same as the mind?

Yes -- we think with our heart!

- Genesis 6:5
- Deut. 8:2, 5, 11-14
- Mark 2:6, 8
- Romans 1:21-22, 28

Mind, heart, knowledge, reasoning all used as **synonyms**.



# Question 10

A biblical view of self maintains a **diversity within the unity** of personhood.

We are a **unified whole** made up of both body and soul.

**Ministry implications?**

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As we serve and come alongside each other, as we seek to encourage and build up one another through the issues of life, we are concerned with the **whole** person and with the **interrelatedness** of our physical bodies and our spiritual souls.

Outer and inner man, physical and spiritual are related to how we think, behave, and relate.

We never discount this interrelatedness; we serve each other in biblical wisdom.

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