

Source night

Topic-
 The nature of man

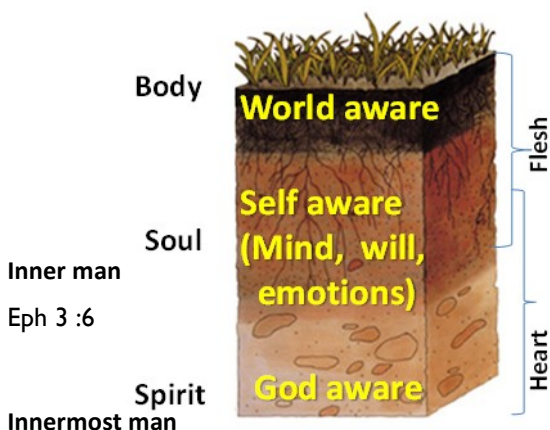
Introductory principles Atheistic thinking Ludwig Feuerbach (Marx, Freud followed) 'We made God' God is an outward projection of human needs, as Christians we know God made man.

Genesis 2 :7 1. We owe everything to God. Psalm 139 :14 2. In/after the image of God Genesis 1:26 5:1
 Doctrine- *Imago Dei* 1v28 Made for relationship with God. God formed man, spoke rest of creation
 Made moral beings, not just evolved animals

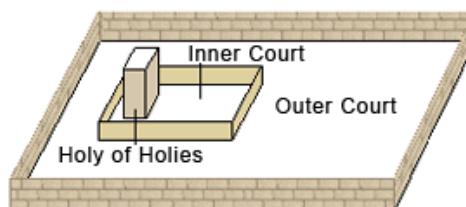
Trichotomy or Dichotomy?

Are we made up of three or two parts? There are some (atheists) Monoists who say we are all one flesh
Dichotomy holds Soul and Spirit of a person is the same. We are two parts inward and outward
 Those who hold this view say the words soul and spirit are interchangeable e.g. John 12 :27 cf 13:21
 Mark 12 :30 & 33 Different words but all meaning same thing.

Trichotomy 1 Thessalonians 5 :23 Hebrews 4 :12 3 parts Reflects the trinity of God - Made in His image



	Ideal (sin always problem)	Long term
Body	Health	New bodies given on resurrection
Soul	Happiness/Joy	Endless existence given at birth
Spirit	Holiness	Eternal abundant life given at new birth



Three parts to the temple with God's presence found in the innermost part.

The Body (Greek - *Soma*) Some have taught body not important. Our bodies imp, will have new one, one day! 2 Corinthians 5 :1, Jesus came in one John 1 :14, Use for God Romans 12 :1, 1 Corinthians 6 :20

The Soul (Greek - *Psyche*) CS Lewis - "You don't have a soul. You are a Soul. You have a body."

We make decisions (will), use reason (intellect/mind), have feelings (emotions). It is the real 'us'

Our souls are not made new at conversion but need to be changed over time 1 Peter 1 :22-23, 2 Cor 3:18

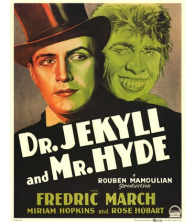
The Spirit (Greek - *Pneuma*) Proverbs 20 :27, Numbers 16 :22, Psalm 42 :7

The spirit within us makes us different from animals. Ecclesiastes 12 :7, James 2 :26 John 4 :24, Mark 2 :8

Within our spirit we have intuition, conscience, awareness of God. E.g. that deep feeling something is right

The spirit of an unbeliever is unresponsive/hardened/ to the things of God 1 Corinthians 2 :14 Ephesians 2 :1, 4:18-19 until God's Spirit enters into us, at our conversion, making us new at the core of our being. 1 Corinthians 2 :14, John 3 :7-8 (Greek word for wind and spirit the same)

Are we good or bad? Nature or nurture? Are we just product of our environment?
I do bad things because of.... 'I'm a victim'. World fights Biblical concept of sin



Doctrine of Original Sin

All people are born with a sinful nature Psalm 51 :5, Ephesians 2 :1-3, Psalm 14 v2-3

Some (Pelagius) argued Adam just set bad example. Augustine however taught our very nature is corrupt.

Doctrine of 'Total Depravity' Isaiah 64 :6, Jeremiah 17 :9, This is because we are in rebellion against God

Some have argued that infants aren't sinful it's from time when we can make moral choices Genesis 8 :21

However, if our nature is sinful, we always have that nature even if we haven't demonstrated it yet.

Consequence of our nature is death, so if an infant can die, it possess the nature. Romans 5 :12

What does it mean to be human? Historic view of 'thinkers'

Identity based on relationships part of family, tribe

Augustine 'The Confessions' concept of individual autonomous individuals with an inner life

Rene Descartes 'I think, therefore I am' Our brain, thinking vital part of being human

Jonathan Edwards (Christian) - Individuals in need of improvement Individual + Gods Grace

Jean-Jacques Rousseau - Individual doesn't need God, we are basically good, We need to accept and love ourselves. Don't be negative - there is no sin

William James - Good person no need for God, Psychologist needed to understand ourselves. We can think of ourselves as machine like, can be fixed.



Abraham Maslow - Self hierarchy of needs, need to glorify self to achieve full potential

What does a normal person look like? **Jesus** Without sin we would be like Jesus

Reflect God like mirror.

Don't compare ourselves to others, ourselves but Jesus. 2 Corinthians 3 :18+

The ability to change and be changed The core of the Christian message is that people can change.

Change starts with our acceptance of our sinful nature, plus repentance. Matthew 4 :17, Acts 3 :19, 20:21

On conversion, God begins a work within 2 Corinthians 5 :17, Ezekiel 36 :26, Ephesians 2 :4-5, Titus 3 :3-7

Holy Spirit within us - 1 Corinthians 3 :16, Romans 8 :6, 1 Corinthians 2 : 10-12

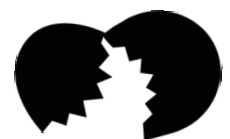
Minds - Renewed Romans 12 :2 Emotions - Stabilised Hebrew 6 :19 Will - Freed to choose right Jn 8 :36

Give ourselves the right environment in which to grow and be changed. Study Word, Prayer, fellowship etc



All above all our continued brokenness before God.

Psalm 51 :10 and :17



Life Group discussion questions

1. How does understanding people, help us to reach people?
2. How far should we love ourselves?
3. How do we reach/minister to 'whole person'
4. How far is self esteem important?
5. How does Biblical thinking change the way we think about other people?
6. Are criminals victims of their environment or their heart?
7. How have we seen people change?
8. In what ways can we take care of our a) body, b) soul, and c) spirit? Do we?

