

## UNDERSTANDING HUMAN NATURE

Opening Questions:

- Is it essential to understand our nature?
- If we don't have a clear and proper understanding our nature, will it not be difficult to solve problems associated with that nature?
- What is our heart?
- What is our soul?
- What is our mind?
- What is our spirit?

So, as we can see, there is something wrong with us. The facts that we just reviewed are not necessarily facts. In other words, the people of the world do not have to be the way that we are, and the only thing to blame for human-caused wrong and suffering are we human beings.

It is essential to understand our nature so we can better understand ourselves and each other and thus be able to better see the framework and our part in it.

One of the most critical and fundamental questions we should ask ourselves as thinking beings is, “what exactly are we or, what does my nature consist of, or what makes me a human being”? As we have seen, many have believed the irrational concept that *we are merely atoms, molecules, acids, proteins, cells*, etc. - in other words, physical things are the entirety of who I am. That is as unreasonable as saying that the nature of a computer is merely its hardware—that no software is needed to account for the ability of the machine to do what they do. Instead of believing that which is unreasonable, why not observe well and make some good deductive realizations? The terms and concepts I am about to discuss are not mine alone.

The following concepts, while they have different terms/words to describe them, do not mean they are necessarily separate and distinct from one another from a metaphysical “substance” perspective. That means, for example, that while we have both a soul and a heart, those two unique, distinct and different *functioning* things could still be part of one whole metaphysical entity.

## Our Spiritual or Metaphysical Nature

*Our heart represents our will*, the core of our being that controls the decisions we make regarding what we do with our both our life and the time we are given each day. Our heart determines what we value or consider important and thus it directs our will. Our heart motivates us to action.

*Our soul represents both our emotional capabilities as well as our conscience.*

*Our emotions are what can color and bring depth and fullness to our experiences and our thoughts.* We experience feelings based on things that happen in our lives or thoughts we have about our lives, others or our experiences. All people can experience emotions, but sadly, most people today are allowing their feelings to make life and relationship decisions instead of using their mind and reason. That is about as smart as needing to walk next to a cliff and deciding how best to walk next to that cliff based on how the cloud shapes in the sky make you “feel” instead of which direction the cliff is. Or, as another example, it is about as smart as a person who is dying of thirst in the desert deciding which direction the water spring might be based on which color or shape of sand makes him “feel the best” instead of deduced facts like plants live near water. You might think these examples are silly, but the truth is that more and more people each day - including probably you dear reader - are making decisions based on "I feel" instead of on "that is true." As people have turned away from the One who says, "I am the truth," and even *away from the fact that truth exists*, they are left with the *selfishness* of "I feel; therefore I decide this." An existence of being led by our emotions is a life of deep darkness and ruin.

*Every human being has a soul.*

*Our conscience is that which intuitively tells us right behavior from wrong behavior* or our ability to judge right from wrong on a non-intellectual basis. It is one key component of human nature that sets us apart from animals. Animals don't behave based on a moral compass of, "this action is wrong, and thus I will not do it," or, "this action is right and will help all animals in this area so I will do it." Instead, they are programmed with instincts that control their behavior. To deny that humans have a conscience is to believe that a child who lies has no idea that what they are doing is wrong—even the child who was never told that lying is wrong. Go, test what I say - find a child and ask them to tell a person that the blue car is a red car. Humans were given the innate ability - through our metaphysical conscience - to know right from wrong. I am not saying that people live by their conscience because in general and for many, they do not. Our will can easily overcome our conscience, especially when we perceive *we will gain or lose something valuable* to us based on some decision or circumstance. We can also dull our conscience by going against it so many times that it loses its sensitivity.

Our conscience is why no human being will stand before our *Life Judge* and successfully plead, "I am innocent" or "I plead ignorance."

*Every human being has a conscience, but many dull or destroy their conscience through drugs (dull) or practicing wrong behavior (ruin).*

*Our mind represents our intellect - our ability to reason, use logic, process information and thus to identify truth from falsehood.*

Our mind is distinct from our brain. To use a computer analogy, the brain is the physical hardware or “CPU, memory, data storage, and power source” while the mind is the metaphysical “software” or operating system and applications. Our mind is affected by our will and soul. In other words, our mind might successfully determine that something is true instead of false, but our will may take our conclusion and wash it away into non-action if we perceive we will lose something we want if we act upon the truth/conclusion.

If there is one thing that is needed today, it is for people to use reason well to arrive at truth. Tragically, most people do not because they have believed many false things about this realm called “the world.” They think these false things because they are not willing to put truth above the comfort of their existence in this world. Stated another way, they love themselves and this world more than anything else - thus, they avoid using reason and logic to identify the truth and only use lesser truths to serve their desires in this world.

*Every human being has a mind.*

Our will interacts with our mind as our mind informs our will about the realm in which we exist and interact. Our will interacts with our soul as our soul provides “data” on what is right and wrong.

*Our spirit enables us to know – be aware of – and commune with our Father and Creator.*

Our spirit enables us to connect with our Creator. Through our spirit, we can connect or communicate with outside entities or beings, including our Creator—being to Being without words or language communication.

*Every human being is born with a functional, living spirit.*

Every child who has not passed out of innocence has a spirit that is alive through the Life given by the Creator. Innocence is the metaphysical or spiritual property which is the life of a child’s spirit. For adults, faith in God (not a merely intellectual belief that he exists) is the life of our spirit.

Not all human beings have a living spirit, meaning their spirit can connect or communicate with (be aware of) their Creator due to choices they made - in fact, most adults do not have a spirit that is “alive.”

Without applications, a computer is essentially non-functional...it has an operating system and can function but it cannot produce meaningful or productive operations. So we are if our spirit is “dead” or not fully working or able to experience the fullness of its intended purpose.

What would a flower be without its color or odor? What is a kiss without love? What is a sunset without color? What is a smile without compassion? What is food without flavor or smell? What is a kind act without the right motivation? What would sex be without sensations or emotional aspects? What would a story be without a problem to overcome or conflict to solve?

So it is with our spirit when it “dies” and loses the connection to our Father—it becomes merely a colorless shadow rather than a vibrant, colorful living agent.

*Our body is merely the physical means we have been given to express who we are and what we value.* Yes, we are an integrated whole – spirit, body, heart, soul and mind – but just like a computer, our hardware (or body) is the lesser aspect of our existence.

*Every human being who exists in the realm/dimension of our physical universe has a body.*

Here is something to consider which makes a strong case that our body is *not* what defines who we are.

Medical science and art are improving to the point the following scenario is realistic. A forty-year-old woman Megan was caught in her house when it caught fire before she went to bed. She was so badly burned that her body was lost to burn injury and the medical people used an advanced artificial life support systems to keep her alive by essentially amputating her head from her body. Her face was also severely burned and disfigured so that you could not recognize her. When Megan gained consciousness, she was the same person who she was 30 hours ago when she went to bed before the fire started.

Her personality, as well as all her memories and experiences and commitments to and love for other people, were the same. All the people she had relationships with were the same. She was still Megan in every meaningful way except her body was radically changed, essentially lost, and her face was unrecognizable. The biggest challenge for Megan would be how she will react to losing the physical identity her body provided and the functions her body provided. In other words, after *the accident, she views* herself as a different person since she sees her body as the essential part of who she is. Her perspective about herself changed but in reality, who she is did not change at all unless she wills it. Due to her body change, she will have to face and deal with the choices of fear, self-pride and darkness OR faith, love, and light.

This proves that we human beings, while having a body, are *not* primarily physical beings. Our body does *not* make us who we are even if we choose to believe that delusion.

Next, we will take a look at the root problems that we have mentioned and alluded to several times up to this point. We will also see that we all fit into particular categories of types of people. Understanding the root problems will help us further build the framework we need to honestly “see” and make sound judgments about the successful failure.

#### Chapter Summary:

- Human beings have metaphysical or spiritual components to our nature;
- We have a will (our “heart”), which directs our decisions each day and in life;

- We have a soul, which is our emotional capacity as well as our conscience - that is our ability to know right behavior from wrong behavior;
- We have a mind, which provides us with our intellect and is the component that can use reason and logic to know that which is true from that which is false;
- We have a spirit, which can connect us to our Life Source, or Creator and Father;
- All children have a living spirit while most adults have killed their spirit due to refusing to accept what is true and justifying self-wrongness and thus not seeing their need for forgiveness and true Life;
- The contemporary term “personality” would be synonymous (the same as) with our heart and soul;
- Who we are is not primarily about our bodies unless we choose that warped perspective;