

“For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

## How Do You Identify Yourself?

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Published by:

Christ, Our Life Ministries, Inc.

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# How do you Identify Yourself?

## Sylvia Pearce

We are Spirit beings, clothed in soul and body! Most Christians can not discern the difference between soul and spirit, and do we know how to identify themselves correctly?

The Word of God is razor sharp and separates between the spirit, and the soul, and the body. The whole purpose of the Word is to build you up in the spirit realm, and rightly divide the spirit from the soul and body, which brings clarity to who you really are. The soul and body are the outer clothing expressing the spirit. Our human spirit is indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God and He expresses his fruits through your soul and body. However, if we are confused in our understanding concerning the flesh realm, we will call soul (flesh), the spirit. We can get into all kinds of trouble doing that, and many do. "We Christians are fooled by soulish emotional changes and fluctuation and these changes can easily betray us. Our urges of self-gratification can obscure our ability to hear from God. The Lord is calling us to move out of the grip of the soul realm and live through the sweetness of our spirit. As believers in Christ, our spirits are eternally fused with the Lord and His kingdom. We can't hear His voice unless we listen with the ears of our spirit."<sup>1</sup>

Let us take a look at how we Christians identify ourselves as fleshly beings, instead of Christ joined--spirit beings. When rightly illuminated,

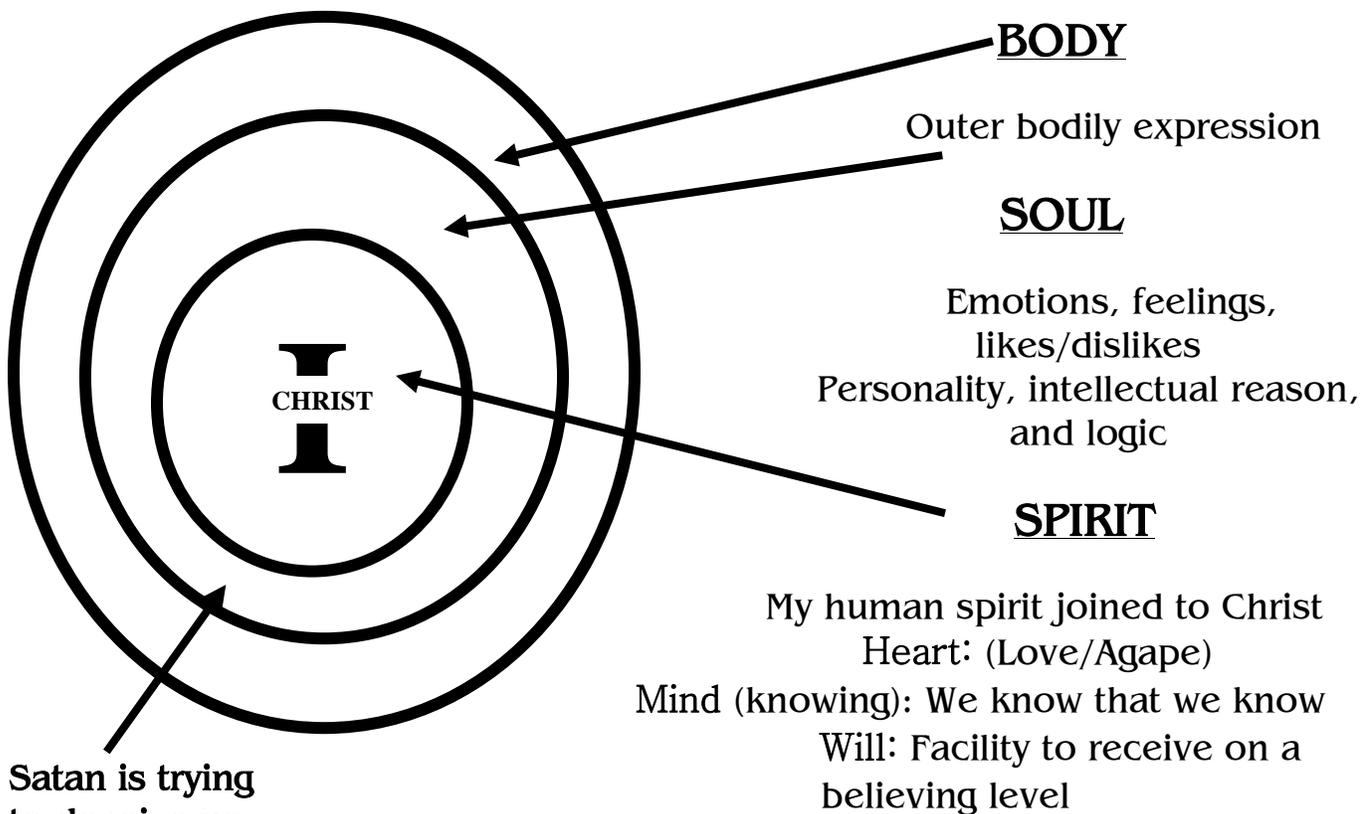
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<sup>1</sup> Angels in our Lives, by Marie Chapian

then hopefully, we will understand why we are not hearing from God, who by the way is *Spirit* and the “*Father of spirits*” (Heb. 12:9).

The human being is God’s top created being, he is marvelously constructed, created in God’s image, and he is wonderfully gifted. Through the fall, man fell into sin, darkness, and blindness. Therefore, man doesn’t understand himself.

Here is a diagram to illustrate what I mean. The Human is Tripartite according to I Thessalonians. 5:23. Spirit, Soul and Body.



Satan is trying to deceive us from the outside by trying to steal our identity. Hey, he is a Identity Thief!

tripartite, with three levels of existence. The three circles above / a crude representation of mankind. Man is much more

complex than this can illustrate. But it does give us some understanding about man.

I Thessalonians 5:23 says:

*“The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

So man is a spirit, and a soul, and a body. Our spirit is our “I,” our soul is how we express that “I.” It is what we think, our logic and reasoning, how we feel emotionally, our likes and dislikes; and our particular personality. Our body is obviously the outer expression of soul and spirit.

Let’s look again at our spirit—we are created in God’s image as a spirit being. We are spirit beings, wrapped in fleshly soul and body clothing. Most of us don’t even know that we are a spirit being. We, most of the time’ think of ourselves as our souls. How I feel is who I am.? How I think is who I am, and so on.

Some of us identify ourself as our bodies: *“I am my body”*--my appearance is who I am.” Either, “I am beautiful and that is who I am, or I am average, or I am ugly and that is who I am.” “I am my hair, my eyes, my skin, my figure, my physique, my legs, my face,” etc. “I am what I wear whether designer clothes or Wal-Mart specials .” “If I am well, physically, then that is who I am, or if I am sick, that is who I am.”

“I think that I am my physical endeavors and accomplishments—swimmer, golfer, dancer” etc.

Most of us draw our identity from the *soul realm*. “I am how I feel: I am depressed, so that is who I am. I am feeling happy, so therefore I am happy today.” “I am my emotions.” “One day, I’m high, the next day I’m low. When I am high, then I am Spiritual, but when I am low I am not so Spiritual.” “I am my likes or my dislikes.” This soul-life is the treadmill life. I liken it to the gerbil’s wheel--always spinning but never getting anywhere.

The way I mentally think is who I am—whether I have an IQ of 160 or 70, my intellect is me. My thoughts, my idea’s, my understanding and my imaginations are who I am. “I am smart, or average, or I am just plain stupid. I master my own thought processes, or I can’t seem to figure life out. Either way I am my intellect.”

I may identify myself with my personality: “I am my personality type, I am even tempered, I am short fused, I am shy, I am fiery, I am quiet, I am talkative. I am my personality.”

Then we can draw our identity from our possessions. “I am my possessions, my money, my things, and my family bloodline. I am my status in life.” “I am successful, or I am a failure. My car, my house, or boat or my job security makes me who I am.”

Maybe, our security and identity comes from where I attend church. I say, "I am charismatic, I am a Baptist, I am from the Vineyard, I am a Presbyterian, a Catholic, or I am non-denominational. Therefore, I am my Spiritual affiliation."

We might think that who I am is what I accomplish and perform spiritually, that I am my ministry. I get inner brownie points from doing good works. I identify myself with my good works, I even boast about them.

We could identify ourselves with our relationships: my husband, my wife, or my children." "What we could not accomplish myself, I will do through my children." "I have validity because my husband is successful, or I am not valid because my wife is fat and not so beautiful." "My children are smart, so I identify myself as a good parent." "My children have embarrassed me, so therefore I am not a good parent." "My security and confidence is drawn from my family life."

I might even identify ourselves with our sins—"I am Gay, I am an alcoholic, I am an addict, I am a liar, I am lustful, I am hateful," or "I am a carnal person sold under sin" (Rom. 7:14), as Paul says. The truth is: I may commit sins, and I must not be in denial, but "my sins are not who I am. They might be what I am doing but they are not who I am."

I might think that we are our professions. “What I do for a living is who I am. I am a teacher, I am a judge, I am a doctor, I am an electrician, I am a stay-at-home mother, I am a janitor, I am a computer expert, I am an unemployed failure, I am a school dropout, I am a Harvard graduate, I am a nurse, I am a pilot,” etc. “I draw my identity from my work place, or from my nationality—I am a Ford worker, I am an American, I live in a mobile home, or I live in a large house.”

No matter what you do or where you live, these criteria **DO NOT DEFINE WHO YOU ARE**. When we live by this false identity and draw our security from this realm, we are always needy, always dissatisfied and self-centered, because nothing is ever enough to satisfy us. We are left with an insatiable hunger, ever looking for fullness and completeness, but never finding it.

We live by self-effort and self-improvement, and are striving to improve either ourselves, or the people around us. We are always trying to *fix, change, or re-arrange* ourselves, or our world. We are in lack and need and are always trying to be in control of our lives, or the lives of others. Life eludes us, people fail us, and we are miserable.

As long as we falsely think that we are our “souls,” then our independent soul-life (which is “*The sin that dwells in us*” in Romans 7:17) reigns in us and dominates us. This false life is Satan reigning in our souls and having dominion over us. This lie keeps us in bondage to a *phantom-separated-independent-self*. When this phantom-I (*the*

*self-perceived "me")* is rightly seen and identified as Satan, the true culprit, then we can wield the sword of faith, by the authority of the Cross, and trust Christ who has already set us free from Satan's control. Now we are on the road to freedom with the resurrected abundant Spirit life of Christ in us. The faith act of "putting on," is based on the fact that we have already "*put on Christ*" (Col. 3:9), our new nature, shedding the old phantom-I and considering that false self as dead and buried, and the human "I" joined to and resurrected with Christ.

Our bodies and our souls are precious and wonderfully God given as the means for expressing the Spirit in a myriads of various forms, *BUT OUR SOULS AND OUR BODIES ARE NOT WHO WE ARE*. I can never say that I am my bodily appetite, or soulish desires. And if I walk in this realm or identify my soul and body as me, then I, as the Bible promises, "*shall be condemned and I shall fulfill the lust of the flesh*" because I am having confidence in my flesh, instead of the real me, which is Christ in me. But if I dare to identify myself and walk as a Spirit Being united to Christ, and therefore clothed in precious soul and body as only a means of expressing the Spirit, then as the Bible promises "*We shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh*" (Galatians 5:16).

Jesus said, unless you lose your independent soulish life, you cannot find your true Spirit-life as Christ (Matthew 16:25). And Paul testifies to this stripping of his outer identity when he said that he "*suffered the loss of all things, in order that he might win Christ*" (Philippians 3:8).

He says that he has no confidence in his flesh appearances, accomplishments, or status in life. When he did have confidence in the flesh, he was living under the bondage of Satan's performance based acceptance and law bound self-effort.

We are Spirit beings and as Spirit beings we Christians are joined to Christ, who is our life and the very power and wisdom source that we live by (I Corinthians 1:24). We are the bodily form of Christ and that IS my/ (our) true Spiritual identity. I am the actual body of Christ and my spirit is married to HIS Spirit so we are *one unified being* (I Corinthians 6:15-20).

Someone said "The invisible God is He, the visible God as we." Does that statement sound kind of New Age-y? There is a New Age oneness, and there is true oneness with Christ. True oneness was prophesied in John 17:20-23 by Jesus.

*"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them: that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one."*

The devil always counterfeits the truth. Actually New Age is not new at all. It is the same old age lie propagated by the devil and now counterfeited by his believers. Satan always wanted to be the only

true God, but instead he became a devil. Whenever the creation tries to become the Creator, he always ends up being a devil.

The invisible uncreated God uses visible created forms to express Himself through. The divine Spirit joins Himself with my human spirit and the two become one flesh. Again, does that make me God? God forbid. But curiously, when the creation humbly surrenders his vesselhood to be indwelt by the Creator, he becomes a living expression of God.

You end up “being” who you contain. Think of it, Jesus said that *“you are the light of the world”* (Mat. 5:14). He called us humans “the light.” We all know that we are not the light, we contain Him, who is the light, yet Jesus says that *we* are the light. The container becomes what it contains without robbing the Creator of His deserved glory. No, we don’t become the Second person of the trinity. Yet the expression becomes one with whom it expresses.

When I identify myself as a human spirit joined to, and indwelt with the Holy Spirit, I can dare claim all that Jesus is as me. “I am peace, because the Prince of Peace lives in me.” “I am righteous, because HIS righteous is MY righteousness.” “I am power because the resurrection power of the universe lives my life.” I am holy, because the Holy Spirit is my life.” “I am love, because, Jesus is love poured out to others.” “I am a co-heir with Jesus, because I have inherited Him and all that he is. I am the bride, for He is my new husband.” “I

am accepted in the beloved, I am chosen, I am justified, I am sanctified, I am glorified, I am a New Creation, I am a king and a priest, I have royal blood, I am a true Israelite, a true Jew, I am a priest after the order of Melchizedek all because I have the glorified Lord Jesus living in me.”

“I have access and rights to the Throne Room” (Heb. 10:19). “I can ask anything in His name and God will give it to me and it **shall** be done” (John 14:13). “I can say unto any mountain in my life, ‘Be Thou Removed,’ and it shall obey me” (Mark 11:23). “I am now one with Christ who creatively “calls the things that are not as though they were,” (Col. 1:27 & Rom. 4:17). “The Almighty One lives in me, and is my authority” (Matt. 28:18-19).

“My soul and body are anointed by the Holy Spirit and express the fruit of the Holy Spirit” (Gal. 5:22). “My precious humanity is rightly used in righteousness” (Rom. 3:22). “My humanity comes alive eternally and is rightly accepted and appreciated” (Mk. 12:31). “I have no condemnation” (Romans 8:1). “I have overcome the evil one” (I John 2:13) and “the evil one touches me not,” (I John 5:18). I have special spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12:1-11), and I have all power, authority, and dominion in heaven and earth (Matt. 16:19), and “I have all sufficiency for all things” (II Cor. 9:8).

So now, is your identity, body, soul or is it spirit? No contest, right? As Spirit beings, we take by faith, which is our royal capacity as choosing-spirit beings, all that Jesus is as us. Faith eventually dissolves into knowing, and settles into final fixation. Then, I

Corinthians 13, the “Love chapter,” bursts into being as a living reality  
fleshed out in us today.