



CITY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

LEADERSHIP SCHOOL LESSON 5

EGO & SELF -Part 2

INTRODUCTION

In the first part of this subject we looked at the definition of Self and its expression. It is no exaggeration to say that the **STRONGEST AND MOST ENDURING ENEMY OF YOUR LIFE AND DESTINY IS SELF**. The sooner you realise this, the quicker you will take a closer look at yourself and your actions.

In this lesson, we will examine the biblical and only permanent way of overcoming the ego and self. Let us start by listing some statements that reflect the male and female ego.

EGO STATEMENTS

- I can never ever wear that!
- My hair needs to be particularly styled for this event.
- I can only drive new cars with a particular brand.
 - My outfit must be of the highest standard.
- I need more money to maintain my status and quality of living.
- I do not want to tell people about Jesus because they will look at me funny.
 - My children must go to private schools.
 - My sexual cravings need satisfaction now!
 - I am craving for some chocolate ice-cream.
 - I can never do certain types of jobs.
 - I cannot date them, below my level.
 - My child cannot marry that type of person.
 - I avoid being embarrassed at all costs!
 - I will not allow anyone to disrespect me ever!
 - I can never leave my job to serve God on pittance.
- There must always be substantial money in my account.
 - I am very unhappy that I was not invited to the party.
 - Why don't I have one of the front row priority seats?
- My birthday/wedding event must send a clear message to everyone!
 - I must have perfect makeup on before leaving home.
 - I just cannot shake this feeling of dread and depression.



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- I am afraid and insecure all the time.
- I need people to like and accept me.
- I really hate any form of rejection.
- My Children must be the best and make me proud.
 - I love the applause and attention I am getting.
 - I am feeling suicidal right now.
- Why are there so little likes and views on my posting?
 - I can never forgive him for what he did. Never!
 - I cannot shake this feeling of dread.
 - I am always feeling shy and insecure.
 - I am much better than them, not on my level.
- I cannot tell them about the truth because of their reaction.
 - I need to shop to feel complete.
 - I cannot help myself; I need to watch porn.
- I have butterflies in my stomach when going on stage.

¹⁹ Now the practices of the ¹⁹sinful nature are clearly evident: they are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality (total irresponsibility, lack of self-control), ²⁰idolatry, ¹⁹sorcery, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions [that promote heresies], ²¹envy, drunkenness, riotous behaviour, and other things like these.....

Galatians 5:19-21

²⁰ And He said, "Whatever comes from [the heart of] a man, that is what defiles and dishonours him. ²¹ For from within, [that is] out the heart of men, come base and malevolent thoughts and schemes, acts of sexual immorality, thefts, murders, adulteries, ²² acts of greed and covetousness, wickedness, deceit, unrestrained conduct, envy and jealousy, slander and profanity, arrogance and self-righteousness and foolishness (poor judgment). ²³ All these evil things [schemes and desires] come from within and defile and dishonour the man."

Mark 7:21-23

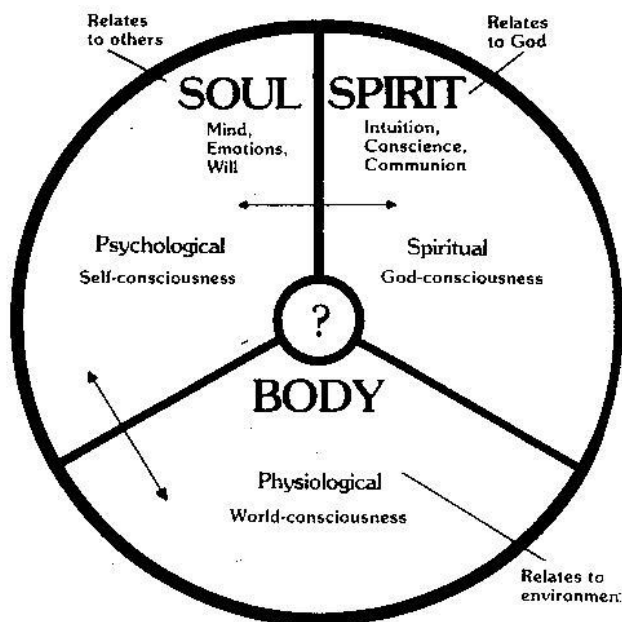
These statements and the scriptures above, show the outflow of the ego (self, sinful nature, heart). The fallen nature of man expresses itself through the ego and selfish desires. Not everything in the natural ego is wrong or sinful but it generally does not align with God's full agenda. That is why we needed a Saviour and Salvation from this situation. Just before we look at the solution, let us understand the context properly.



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THE MAKEUP OF MAN



²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [that is, separate you from profane and vulgar things, make you pure and whole and undamaged—consecrated to Him—set apart for His purpose]; and may **your spirit and soul and body** be kept complete and [be found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of **soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow**, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart

Hebrews 4:12

To understand the solution of overcoming self and Ego, it is important that we have clarity regarding our make up and what happens when a person becomes a Christian. To put it simply, our spirit essence became separated from God and His Spirit when Adam sinned, and our spirit reconnects when Christ comes into our lives. **You are Spirit first, with a Soul and living in a Body.**

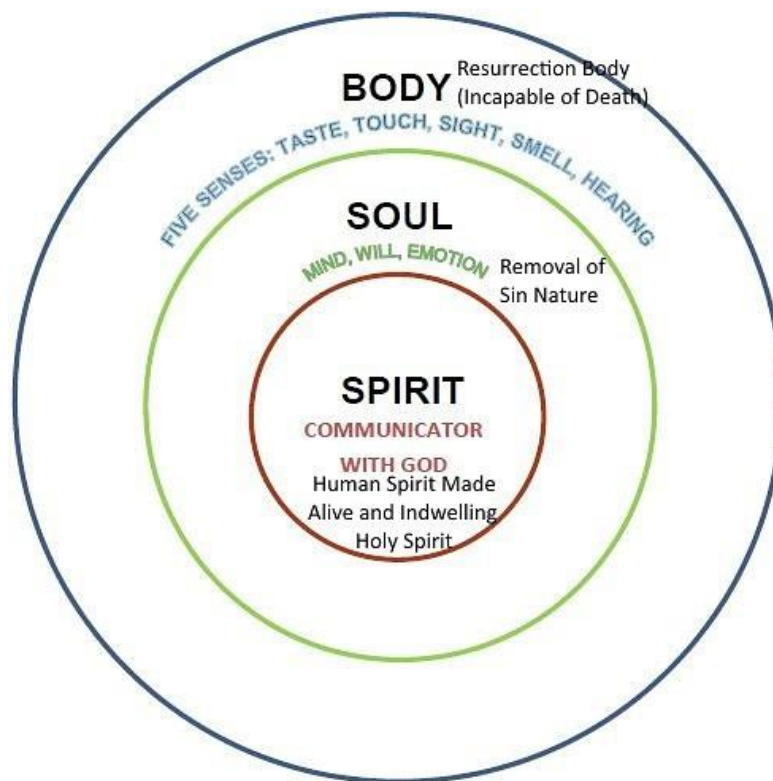
¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life]. 2 Corinthians 5:17



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THE SOLUTION



¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:15-26



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HOW EXACTLY DO I OVERCOME SELF?

Let us use the illustration or parable of a car to explain this very well. There are two tag-teams in the vehicle. Two are in front and the other two are in the back seat. Whoever is in front drives and controls the direction and speed of the car.

The two tag-teams are – **Your spirit/the Holy Spirit**, and **Your Soul/Body**. The Car represents your life, decisions, and general outcomes. You have a choice to allow either of these teams to drive and control your life.

When the Soul and Body are in charge, the car is driven and controlled by self, ego and the cravings and desires that stem from the natural realm or mind.

When the spirit and Holy Spirit are in charge, the car is driven by the values and thoughts of Christ and His Will.

All three components (spirit, soul, body) of your being have legitimate needs. The key is to provide the basics for each part of our make up so that we live balanced and productive lives for time and eternity.

CLOSSIANS 3 AS A GUIDE

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honour at God's right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And when Christ, who is your^[a] life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

Colossians 3:1-4

The Bible says what it means, and it means what it says. The Scriptures are not bogus statements that are void of practical application or understanding. Let us attempt to transliterate what this might say in our modern words:

You are now Born Again and are in the matrix of Christ's Kingdom. Focus your thoughts on God's thoughts about you, written in Heavenly places. Heaven is real so let your mind imagine what it would be like. You can no longer really fit anymore into this world no matter how hard you try. So, accept this and live from this reality. So, by all means, go ahead and obtain your degree, get a job, settle down, have a family, eat, and drink with friends and live your life. However, know this is temporary and your real PERMANENT life will soon appear so get ready for that permanent abode which will be very glorious. Jesus is coming soon!

Colossians 3:1-4



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⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Do not be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. ⁶ Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming
Colossians 3:5-6

Separate your Body from all appearances of sin. Delete your ego with its selfish tendencies within your mind and thoughts. Stop watching porn, do not sleep around, do not give into temptations that will mess up your life. Be careful what you watch on the internet that stir up lustful thoughts and make you carnal. Do not watch too much TV or spend excessive unhealthy hours on your phone, entertainment and online! Do not become a shopaholic, or obsessive with your looks that makes you photoshop your image! Do not worship money or allow yourself to be materialistic. God is not pleased with these sorts of things and His Judgement will come!
Colossians 3:5-6

⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. ⁸ But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. ⁹ Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. ¹⁰ Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. ¹¹ In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile,^[c] circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized,^[d] slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.
Colossians 3:7-11.

When you were not a Christian and even when you were a carnal believer, you used to dabble in these messy things, swearing, losing your cool, road rage and violent conduct, fraud, clubbing, vengeful behaviour, whistle blowing on friends, cussing people out, withholding vital information, lying all the time, backstabbing, and gossiping. Grow up now and allow the Jesus inside you to shine forth. There is no racism here nor tribalism or classism. No lower class, middle class, or upper class. We are one in Christ because He is happy to live in all of us.
Colossians 3:7-11.



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¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tender-hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body, you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Colossians 3:12-17

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

These passages tell us several things:

- You have the power of CHOICE.
- You are spirit, with a soul, living in a physical body.
 - The Holy Spirit has come to HELP you.
- Sin, Self or Satan are only an offer, you can refuse the offer.
 - Feed your heart and mind with positives.
 - Your body is under your control.
 - Any dog can be put on a leash.
 - Your emotions can be regulated.
 - Music helps the soul and spirit.
 - Daily assimilation of the WORD helps.
 - God's Peace is TANGIBLE.
 - Allow your EGO to be saved!

HOMEWORK

Reflect on yourself this week and your deepest heartfelt wishes and personal goals. Have a conversation with Jesus about which of these align with His Will for You.