

Spiritual Man (Part 2)

I love the Bible! Don't you? The more I study it the more it changes me, and causes me to think the thoughts of God after Him. This is due, I believe, to the fact that I am a spiritual creature made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28). It is as though His Word is especially suited for man's spirit. Through the Word, Divine Spirit communicates and communes with human spirit (1 Corinthians 2:6-16).

Yet it is possible for a human being to shut God out of his or her life. Imagine that! We have it within us to shut God out! From whence comes this power? The Creator Himself gives us this capacity by virtue of the fact that we are made in His image and are volitional and responsible creatures. He created us so that we may shut Him out or welcome Him in, which ever we choose. Sometimes we choose wrongly.

The voice of God calls us to walk with Him and live with Him. In a thousand Bible verses and texts God invites us to open the door and let Him in. He warns us of the consequences of shutting Him out, and He promises blessings for opening our lives to Him (Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Matthew 7:13-14; Romans 2:4-11; etc.).

Because we are in His image, there is no doubt that God wants to be in fellowship with us. If it was left up to the Lord alone to decide, He would choose to commune Spirit to spirit. Since He created us in His image the very purpose of our creation is intimately connected to this spiritual nature. Thus it is the height of tragedy and ruin for any man or woman to shut God out. To shut God out (to fail to establish communion with God on the level He desires) is to lose sight of the most important aspect of our humanity and to deny God His deepest desire.

So the focus and thrust of every human life is clear. Human beings must "*seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us...*" (Acts 17:27). My highest aspiration as a member of the human race is to seek the Lord and find Him. I will successfully accomplish this task by seeking Him through the revelation He has given (Romans 10:6-17).

But it's not just about seeking the Lord. The fulfillment of human existence can only be found in becoming like God. "Wait a minute," someone replies, "I thought you said we are already like God in that we are made in His image!" Yes, we are made in His spiritual image, but many of us have failed to appreciate this crowning quality of our nature. Thus the spirit of man has become corrupted by sin (Galatians 6:8; 2 Corinthians 11:3). We are still spiritual in nature, but the mind, the will, and the affections have become slaves to the desires of the flesh (Romans 6:16-21).

The only way out of this predicament is to be redeemed (i.e., to be forgiven of sins; to be released from the guilt that leads to spiritual death; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 3:21-26) and to be conformed to the image of Christ (Colossians 3:10; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 12:1-2). This occurs when a man or woman obeys the gospel and sets their heart on being like God and taking on the moral qualities so characteristic of the Divine spirit (1 Peter 1:13-2:12).

This is the **only** way to know the true meaning of being human. Some argue that it is in our nature, as human beings, to sin. This is only partially true. When we yield to the desires of the flesh and become corrupted in our thinking by the ideas and pursuits that are temporary; that are worldly, then yes, our nature becomes corrupted. Sin becomes a part of our very identity (Ephesians 2:1-3). Yet, we were not created for corruption. That would have been a dirty trick on God's part. Sin is not good for the soul; it is destructive. God, and only God, is good for the soul. Augustine said it best: "Thou has made us for Thyself, O God! And our souls are restless until they find their rest in Thee!"

What are you pursuing in life? Does the spirit have the priority? Imagine living your whole life never realizing the life for which you were especially created! Don't let such a tragedy befall you.

Brian