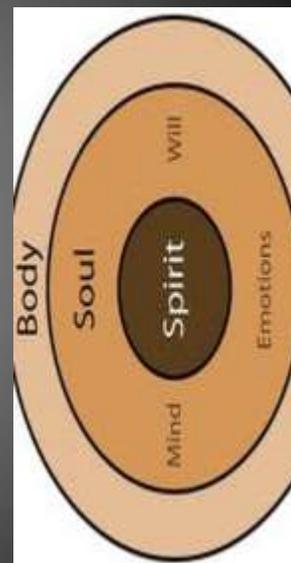


Human Constitution

- What is the essential structure of mankind?
 - If we were broken up into component parts, what would they be?
- There are three views:
 - Trichotimism
 - We are made up of three components.
 - Dichotomism
 - We are made up of two components.
 - Monism
 - We are only made up of one component.

Trichotomy

- This is the oldest view in the church.
 - We are made up of body, soul, and spirit. Kind of makes us a trinity.
- Body is physical and is what we have in common with plants and animals.
- The soul is a nonmaterial component that contains the mind, emotion, will, and psyche – in this we are distinct from plants but common to animals.
- The spirit is the religious element and is unique to humans.



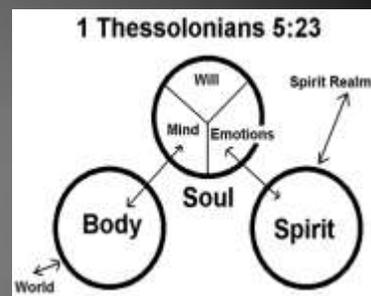
Trichotomy

- Evidence is found in early chapters of Genesis.
- When it is said we became living souls because God gave the breath of life, the Hebrew word nephesh (נֶפֶשׁ) is used for that. A different word in the Old Testament is used for spirit, and it is ruach (רוּחַ).
- In the New Testament, we see the same pattern. Soul is the Greek word psyche (ψυχή) and spirit is pneuma (πνεῦμα).
- The conclusion is humans are made up of three parts: two parts are immaterial, and one part is material.
- Also, certain Bible passages make the distinction between soul and spirit.



Trichotomy

- 1Th 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely. And may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
- Phi 1:27 Just one thing: as citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel,



Problems with Trichotomy

- Why did this fall out of favor?
 - It had an association with Greek philosophy.
 - Greek philosophers taught that the soul was immaterial and the body was material, but the only way the two were brought together in unity is if there were a third nonmaterial aspect called the spirit.
 - Christian theologians ran with this.
 - Trichotomism was popular with the Alexandrian school of theologians winning people like Clement, Origen, and Gregory of Nyssa.
 - It hit hard times due to the Christological controversies of the fourth and fifth centuries.
 - In arguing about the hypostatic union, Apollinarius used trichotomy as his basis for rejecting the full humanity of Christ. He argued Christ had a human body and soul, but a divine spirit.
 - The end result was to declare both Apollinarius and Trichotomism as heretical.

Dichotomy

- Following the Council of Constantinople in AD 381, this became the dominant Christian position.
- There are two aspects to humans, the physical body and the immaterial soul. The soul and spirit were seen as interchangeable. Thus, they came to hold a basic position of Greek dualism.
- Most support of dichotomism came from it's attacks against trichotomism.
 - In other words, the hermeneutic used by trichotomists can lead to absurd conclusions.
 - Mat 22:37 He said to him, "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**"
- So does this mean we are made up of 4 parts? Other passages will add to that 4 many more.

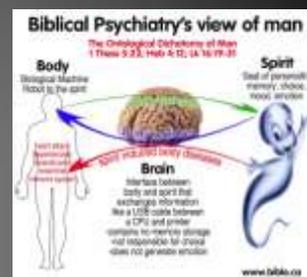


Dichotomy

- A trichotomist may try to say those are all parts of the soul, but then why can't the dichotomist do the same thing in texts where a distinction is made between spirit and soul?
- The easiest way to solve the distinctions is to notice that spirit, soul, heart, mind, intellect, and all of the other aspects that might show up are all immaterial and distinct from the body.
- Therefore, it seems best to say that we have only two natures, and the immaterial nature includes both a spirit and soul together.
- Some texts use spirit and soul interchangeably.
- Luk 1:46-47 And Mary said: My soul praises the greatness of the Lord, (47) and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

Dichotomy

- From a scriptural standpoint, there is no passage that says we are made up of ONLY two parts.
 - This is why most of the strength of this position is found in its ability to savage the trichotomist position.
- Scripture does, however, clearly teach we have a material and immaterial component to us. We are clearly a psychosomatic union.
- Furthermore, Christ in Matt 10:28 only speaks of soul and body being destroyed in hell.
- The biggest weakness of dichotomism is it was used by liberals to deny the bodily resurrection. But the misuse of a doctrine is not necessarily a true weakness.



Monism

- This is a modern position and it holds human nature is not comprised of component parts, but instead is a radical unity.
- They say that there is no existence without a body.
 - Monists believe in only two possibilities after death: soul sleep or nonexistence.
 - Seventh Day Adventists and JW's hold to soul sleep.
- Monists support their view by drawing sharp distinctions between Hebrew and Greek thought.
- They claim the Old Testament and the Hebrew did not make sharp distinctions between body and soul, and always spoke of men as a unity in existence.
 - The idea of bodies and souls being separate was pagan Greek philosophy that unfortunately found its way into the language of the New Testament.
 - Therefore, to know what the New Testament writers really meant, it is argued that you must read and understand them from an Old Testament context.

Problems with Monism

- The Bible clearly teaches there is an intermediate state between death and resurrection.
 - Luke 23:43—the thief was told “today” he would be with Christ in paradise.
 - Luke 16:19-31—rich man and Lazarus. People are still conscious after death. This is not future judgment, because the rich man asks to send a messenger to his family in the present.
 - 2 Cor 5:8—Paul says believers who die are right now in the presence of the Lord.
- Monism is a new view influenced by modern materialism.



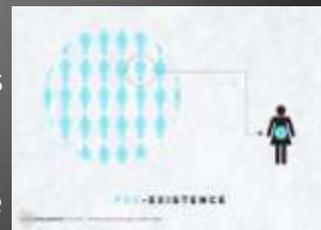
Where does the Soul Come From?

- By experience, we know where the physical part of us comes from (our parents).
- What about the immaterial part?
- Many Christians don't know the answer.
- They carelessly answer, and sometimes there are big consequences.
- We will quickly go over the two most common wrong answers.



Wrong Answer # 1

- The first wrong answer is preexistence.
 - Every human soul was created in eternity past and is kept in some repository.
 - When a new body is conceived, a soul is given to that body from this repository.
 - God created the exact number of souls as He knew there would be bodies for.
 - The preexistent souls were made prior to Adam. He was simply given the one meant for him.



Wrong Answer # 1

- Problems.
 - Not a single scripture to support this.
 - Why do we have no memory of our preexistent existence? After all, the mind is immaterial.
 - It denies the unity of man since our body and soul come from different sources.
 - Where did we get our sin nature if our souls came from heaven?
 - The Bible says we received this nature from Adam. Are you going to argue that only our flesh has that evil nature, but our soul does not? Biblical hamaritology destroys that idea.
 - In fact, that idea is quite Gnostic—flesh and matter is evil and cages a good spirit.
 - This damages God's justice if He puts a good soul in an evil body, and then condemns the whole person later for what they body did to the soul.

Wrong Answer # 1

- Christ is the only preexistent human.
 - John 1:14-15 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (15) (John testified concerning Him and exclaimed, "This was the One of whom I said, 'The One coming after me ranks ahead of me, because He existed before me.'"
 - John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."
 - Abraham lived 2,000 years prior to Jesus. John the Baptist was a few months. It makes no sense to say Christ existed before them if we all existed before them.
- At the end of the day, saying we share preexistence with Christ is blasphemous.



Wrong Answer # 2

- The second wrong answer is special creation.
 - Every time there is procreation, God then creates a soul and imparts it to the body.
 - Allegedly, the creation of Adam supports this. He was made a body, and then God breathed into him, making him a living soul.
 - Verses like Psalm 139:14-16 and Jeremiah 1:5 are often cited.



Wrong Answer # 2

- Problems.
 - If God has to create tens of thousands of new souls every day, then is His work of creation really done? God ceased work after six days. Now He governs and works through providence.
 - Like the preexistent view, God is placing a good soul into a corrupt and evil body. This is Gnostic, and it damages the justice of God.
 - It denies the unity of man.
 - Since it is not saying we preexist, it isn't as dangerous as the previous view.
 - The passages cited do not actually say God specially creates the soul when a body is conceived. David speaks of God's providential work in the conception and growth of any child in the womb. Jeremiah speaks of God's perfect foreknowledge.



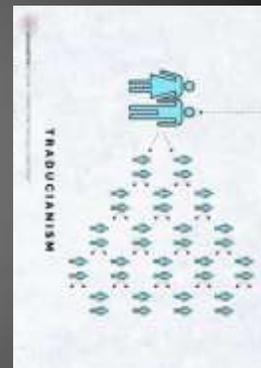
Correct Answer

- Transducianism.
 - Our entire being comes from our parents, both body and soul.
 - Adam is said to be made in God's likeness, and yet Seth is made in Adam's likeness.
 - Gen 5:3 Adam was 130 years old when he fathered a son in his likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.
 - Since Adam was a full psychosomatic being when God created him, that is the likeness of Adam. So Adam fathered a son with that exact likeness.
 - This means the entire image and likeness that was found in Adam was passed on naturally through procreation to his son.
 - Genesis 1 says all creatures reproduce after their own kind. So everything God put into Adam is passed on to his offspring, including the soul.



Transducianism Defended

- There are a few lines of evidence to support this.
 - In the Bible, only beings that are the DIRECT creation of God are called sons of God (Jesus, Adam, and the angels).
 - Regular sons of Adam are never called sons of God. Only redeemed humans in the NT are said to be sons of God, but it is through adoption.
 - If God specially made all our souls, then we would all directly be sons of God.
 - When we are regenerated by the Holy Spirit, we become sons of God, because this is the new birth. It is part of the new creation, which explains why such creation happens after the 6th day (that is the old creation).



Transducianism Defended

- Evidence.
 - Parents notice that their kids tend to have some of our same qualities of attitude, disposition, intellect, and so forth.
 - Many of these qualities come from our immaterial part. It seems clear it is passed down to the kids.
 - These things are often not learned by sight.
 - There is one very interesting Scriptural line of evidence.
 - Heb 7:9-10 And in a sense Levi himself, who receives a tenth, has paid a tenth through Abraham, (10) for he was still within his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

Transducianism Defended

- Evidence.
 - Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek four generations before he was even born.
 - He paid these tithes while still in his great grandfather Abraham's loins. He gets the credit for the tithe.
 - This agrees with Romans 5:12, which says in Adam we all sinned. How did we sin with Adam?
 - Wouldn't it be more accurate to say that Adam's sin simply affected us all? No. It says that in Adam, "we all sinned."
 - How is that possible? It is because just as all our DNA was in Adam, so too were our souls there sinning along with him.
 - This is how the sin nature passes on to us from Adam.

Conclusion

- In summation, Biblical Anthropology is instructive for other doctrines.
- Learning about us teaches about Christ, creation, salvation, sin, and many other factors.