

The Sweeping Drama of Human History



BRIDGING
— THE —
GAP

Introduction

In this first session, we are going to explore answers to two key questions:

- 1. Why is there a gap that needs to be bridged?*
- 2. What does the gap look like in real life experience?*

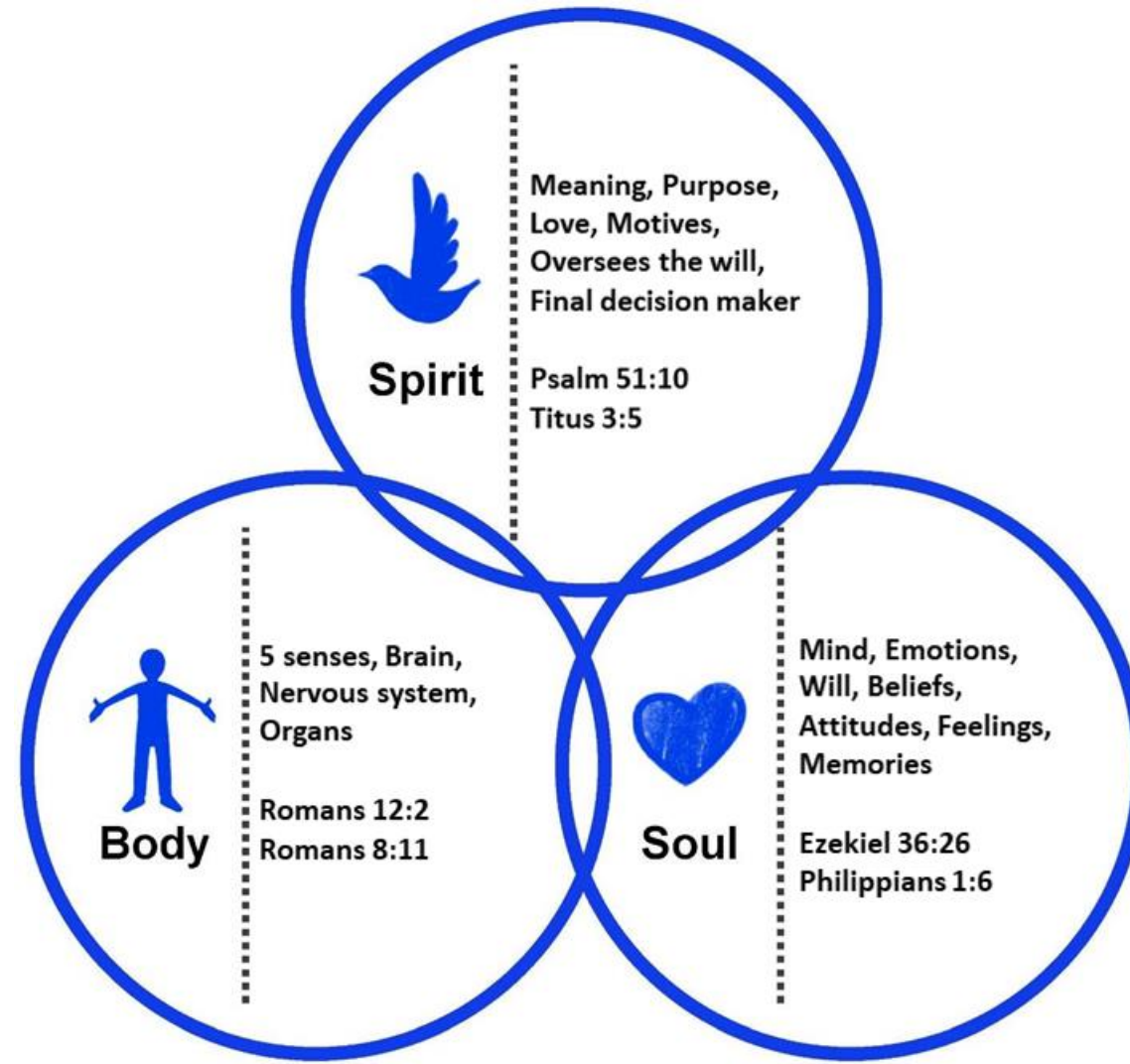
To answer these questions, we need to review the sweeping drama of human history.



Creation

1. God made humans in His image -- male and female.
(Gen.1:27)
2. God made humans with a material body and an immaterial soul and spirit.
3. The immaterial soul -- mind, emotions, and will
4. They were also created with a spirit that will never cease to exist.
5. They were innocent -- untested creature holiness
(Gen.2:24)





Fall -- Sin and Death

1. Adam and Eve sinned against God by disobeying His command. The issue was power and control. (Gen.3:6-7)
2. Their sin ruined their relationship with God and with each other, resulting in terrible consequences for all of creation.
3. They died spiritually the moment they sinned. All human beings are now born spiritually dead (separated from God). Physical death occurs when the human spirit separates from the body.



Law and Sacrifices

1. Adam and Eve were removed from the Garden, but given a way to connect with God spiritually through a blood sacrifice. (Gen.3:21-24)
2. All through the Old Testament period, the way people's sins were forgiven and they connected to God spiritually was through faith -- obeying what God designed for them by way of a sacrificial system.
3. The prophets indicated a suffering Messiah was coming who would pay for our sins. (Is.53:3-6))



Grace and The Cross

1. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrificial Lamb of God -- the final payment for sin.
2. When a person repents and trusts Jesus, he/she receives eternal spiritual life -- our present and everlasting possession.
3. Our spiritual life produces new desires and motivations, such as loving, obeying, worshiping, and serving God.
4. God gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit who speaks to us through our spirit and guides us in our decisions.



Eternity

1. Our spiritual life allows us to experience the love, joy, and fulfillment that God desires for us in this life.
2. We will enjoy life eternally in the presence of God in a beautiful, sinless, pain-free paradise on a perfectly restored, new Earth. (Rev.21:1-4)



Summary and Conclusion

1. The sin of Adam and Eve impacted every part of our lives -- body, soul, and spirit.
2. The sacrifice of Jesus provides the possibility to be re-connected with God spiritually.
3. Our bodies continue to be impacted with disease, aging, and death. Our souls are damaged by the presence of the sinful nature which wars against the new nature.
4. The gap is real and profound when trying to make decisions.

