

BLOG #3 on Sacrament –“Soul vs. soul”—spiritual identity vs. material or false identity

Christine Driessen – 7/11/20

Of all the synonyms for God, Soul was the one I understood the least! Over the last few years as I realized Soul is the source of our identity and is manifested in health, wholeness, purity, harmony, beauty, strength, creativity, and peace in every detail, function and action of our being, it began to take on new meaning for me.

However, my thought about Soul was greatly expanded with this week's lesson on Sacrament!

As you may have noticed, the lesson talked repeatedly about the role of Soul (10x) in freeing us from bodily suffering and enabling us to understand and demonstrate more fully our true unchanging, eternally spiritual identity as Soul's radiant reflection.

I saw more clearly than ever before why Christ Jesus needed to go through the crucifixion--to turn people's thought away from worship of a physical body called Jesus, as if that ever was his identity--and why his "soul" (the material view his disciples held of him) was "exceeding sorrowful, even unto death." He had to allow the destruction of that false sense of identity before people could begin to recognize man's true nature as entirely spiritual, outside of any material form or personality.

None of the disciples, except Mary Magdalene, recognized him after his resurrection because they were still looking for "Jesus" in a fleshly form. Their human sympathy wanted to see nail prints and a spear wound. Jesus told them they were still mesmerized and would not recognize the spiritual man or "new man" for themselves and others until they let go totally of that false sense of identity.

God's man (each one of us) is the reflection of Soul; we are not defined by, nor limited to, nor trapped in a human personality or a physiological body or a sexual identity which could suffer and die.

Soul and its reflection, each of us, is eternally perfect; but we won't be able to demonstrate that until we let go of a material, physical, or sensual view of ourselves and others. Christ Jesus has already made the demonstration for us and shown us the way through the spiritual qualities of Soul that he lived, by his complete obedience to God's commandments, and by his resurrection from death. Those spiritual qualities are so natural to every single one of us!

Below I have put some of the many points I found from this lesson* on one of two sides:

- Soul – the source of our spiritual identity
- “soul” – the false material view of identity

* <https://quarterly.christianscience.com/lesson>

All quotes below are taken from the Bible or from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy

Soul – the spiritual source of our identity

- A spiritual sense of existence
- Glory
- The offspring of Spirit who having wrestled with error, sin, and sense, and are governed only by divine Science
- Worship God in Spirit and in truth
- To love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind (with our full identity, honor Spirit alone)
- To do justly, love mercy and walk humbly before thy God
- To surrender all merely material sensation, affection and worship
- To recognize only the divine control of Spirit
- To allow Soul to be our master, where material sense and human will have no place
- Spiritual devoutness - yielding a solemn and reverential attention to God; expressing devotion to Spirit
- Purity of heart, motives, and affections enable us to see perfect God, perfect man
- Baptism – a spiritual purification from all error, washing the body of all the impurities of flesh
- Purifying our affections lifts us into a spiritual concept of man, thus uniting all mankind in one spiritual, pure, holy body
- The cornerstone of all spiritual building is purity—the way to health and holiness
- Allowing Soul to hold the control, we naturally loathe sin and condemn it under every mask
- Obedience to Soul transplants the affections from sense to Soul where the creations of God are good, “rejoicing the heart.”
- Humility, self-denial, self-examination, crucifying flesh,
- Having a heart ready and accepting, following Christ

“soul” – the material sense of ourselves

- A material sense of existence
- Shame
- Corporeal or bodily sense
- Refuse to reject sin, but rather accept or excuse it
- Worship self, body, material world, material honors, all of which are erroneous and illusory
- To love self, family, friends, body, material world, material pleasures more than Spirit
- To be governed by human will, human choice, material senses
- To be in control of one’s own life
- Worshipping through the medium of matter – material symbols, human power, medicine, sensuality
- A material sense of body is always dualistic and judgmental—dividing mankind
- Impurity, mixing, adulterating, dualism—loving and accepting some sins while condemning others
- Love of the material, physical, sensual body with all of its pleasures, and thus suffering from all of its pains
- Human mind maintains control over itself, its thoughts and actions so that it can excuse sin in itself while accusing sin in others (Un. 21:1)
- Clinging to personal sense and human will, everything looks dark, bleak, lonely and painful
- Self-love, self-justification, self-pity, self-righteousness, self-will, selffulfillment, self-indulgence which trap us in the belief of suffering and death

Soul – spiritual source of identity - continued

- Our inspiration comes from Soul—from spiritual communion with the one Mind; from crucifying once and for all the fleshly beliefs; from the bread of Truth and divine Love.
- Demonstrating the facts of Soul in Jesus' way resolves the dark visions of material sense depression, anxiety, fear, hatred, blindness, self-hatred, cataracts, myopia all dissolve under the rays of infinite Truth) into harmony, immortality, perfection and wholeness
- These spiritual qualities enable us to be healers, destroying sin, disease and death
- Since Soul is the source of everyone's true identity, everyone must be baptized through Christ—lifted out of a material sense of self into an entirely spiritual understanding of identity—and Christ, our Rock, enables each one to do this
- The Passover closed forever Jesus' concessions to matter, and it should ours as well—we must pass over from a material sense of life to the material—NOW!
- Soul's ideas realize the "utter error of a belief in any possible material intelligence (information taken in through the material senses
- Soul's idea rejects human will and obeys only the divine will
- Soul's idea prays, "let not the flesh but the Spirit be represented in me. "
- Soul's idea gives all for Christ or Truth
- "Only by losing the false sense of Soul can we gain the eternal unfolding of the Life as immortality brought to light."

"soul" – material sense of identity - continued

- Human inspiration comes from surfing the internet, reading other's opinions on FaceBook, worshipping intellectualism and self
- A myopia or state of mental cataract which distorts creation, making even good appear evil, and making evil appear good, filling consciousness with a sense of never-ending darkness; or a total blindness to divine Love's everpresent goodness and Spirit's uninterrupted harmonious government
- When even Jesus faced the persecution and bodily suffering of the world's sin, he said, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death." The material, physical, bodily sense of identity will always face the beliefs of sorrow, suffering and death.
- Material sense is constantly making concessions to matter, to mortal mind, to material laws, to medical opinions, to false gods, and it is what keeps man enslaved to suffering
- The disciples kept clinging to a bodily, physical sense of Jesus, so he had to go through the crucifixion of the flesh to force human thought to let go of its false sense of identity.

Soul – source of spiritual identity – continued

- Soul's idea "blesses its enemies, heals the sick, casts out error, raises the dead from trespasses and sins, and preaches the gospel (the good news of our oneness with Spirit) to the meek in heart."
- Mary Magdalene was able to see the risen Christ without looking at a physical body at all because of the purity of her thought.
- The disciples saw/recognized the risen Christ only through his miracles proving the nothingness of matter and allness of Spirit—the multitude of fishes where there had been none.
- His resurrection from a bodily view of identity to a spiritual view of man was their resurrection:
 - They changed their methods,
 - They turned away from material things,
 - They cast their net on the right side (the side of Soul)
 - They began to "rise somewhat from mortal sensuousness or the burial of mind in matter, into newness of life as Spirit."
- When Jesus found no human support for this step of crucifying the flesh, he turned away forever from earth to heaven, from sense to Soul (not in the next life, but here and now)
- Resurrection from soul to Soul: departing from a material sense of identity into the spiritual sense of being—destroying sensuousness in consciousness; bowing before Christ, Truth, to receive more of his reappearing; silently communing with the divine Principle, Love, to gain a purer understanding of Soul as the only source of identity.

"soul" – material sense of identity - continued

- The disciples, too, were then forced to go through that same suffering until they let go totally of a sensuous view of man's identity
- Since the disciples only believed in Jesus as a physical presence up to the crucifixion, they were not able to see him after he was resurrected.
- Thomas (doubting thought) had to touch the physical Jesus before he would believe the resurrection. But Jesus said only those who have "not seen" through the physical senses and yet have believed, are lifted to a higher understanding of man's true spiritual nature.