



Living from the Soul

We, as Christians, are three-part persons. I mean, we have three distinct aspects to our beings: body, soul, and spirit. The body-part needs no clarification; the soul-part is our life-part and our emotion-part; and the spirit-part is our holy-part, our God in Christ in us part.

(1 Th 5:23) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The above verse states it very clearly. We are three-part beings. People who are not born again of God's spirit are only two part



beings, body and soul. In this Artios, I will address Christians, those have all three parts.

Specifically, I want to talk about your soul. Your soul is where you "feel" and live. It doesn't think, but it does feel, for it makes up your emotional base, so to speak. *All of your feelings emanate from within your soul.*

If you can recognize this, you have the potential to become a master of your life, and also of all your life-situations. In a way, you sort of

become invincible because you are living according to the way God designed you to be. Believe it or not, many people hide their soul's true expression away, deep within the core of their bodies, never truly living according to God's plan. God wants us to live freely, and what better way to do that than to love self and others!

(Rom 13:8-10) Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. {9} For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is

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briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. {10} Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Two most critical aspects of love are taught in verse nine above. We are told to love others, but we are also told to love self. That's what it means, in part, when it says, "love thy neighbour as thyself." *You can never love others if you don't love yourself.*

How often do we watch the Hollywood crowd on the big Silver Screens and yearn for their company, to be like them? I dare say, "a lot!" But, just what is it that we are yearning for? Is it their money? Their looks? Nope, I don't think so. It is their souls. We love what we see because we love what their acting does to our souls, to our feelings. We look at

them as role-models, soul-mate wanna be's. We look at them wondering if we will ever be like them – as if they are some sort of magical creation. Actually, they are nothing more than you or I, people who eat, live, breath, and work just like we do. But there is something different. What is that different thing? It is, "they manifest their souls" and your soul is drawn to them. Down deep, you wonder if you could be like that. If you do, then the answer is a resounding, "YES" you can be like them.

What do you have to do to be like them? You have to free your soul. Actors and actresses alike open their souls for others to see. They remove any chains and freely give of that which they are. You can do this too. You can free your soul, but in order to do so, you must start loving yourself. In a strange sort of way, when the screen-players are acting out

some character, they love their audience. Have you ever asked yourself, "why do actors like this get paid so much?" Well, if you have, here's the answer. They get paid so much because they literally entertain your soul, and your soul loves it. At least, most of it. I don't like horror movies, or scary movies. My soul doesn't like them, so I won't watch them. I won't watch horribly bloody movies either. Why? Because my soul doesn't like them. Now, there's a bit more to it than that, but I'm trying to make a point.

We are forever in the position of trying to entertain our souls.

When our souls are entertained, we feel good and happy and content. When our souls are afflicted and troubled, we feel badly, unhappy, and discontented. When in the later state, we seek to change whatever it is that is causing the affliction

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in order that we may again feel wonderful. We are constantly seeking for entertainment which will give us a good, nice and wonderful feeling. When we find that which does, we stop being so restless, filled with so much longing. But, we can't get close to this place unless we love ourselves first!

(Gal 5:14) For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Loving ourselves so that we could love others is nothing new. This has been known as long as the Ten Commandments have been known. God knows that a soul's job is to love, love, love, and to receive love, love, love! How many of us refuse love, refuse others? If you are one of those, you are one who doesn't love yourself. I'd like to ask you to stop for a minute and consider

the importance of loving yourself. Your soul makes up one third of your being (as a Christian). If you don't love yourself, you are ignoring the required care of one third of your being. That is high treason if you ask me. *If you don't love yourself, you are bringing affliction directly upon you.* And I am sure that you are miserable.

I was taught by well-meaning teachers, to ignore my feelings, to be rash, intellectual, all with one purpose: to direct my soul in the right way. I have to tell you something. I feel that I was misled in this. My soul is definitely not entertained by intellectuals; it is entertained by loving individuals, people whom I love. If someone would come up to me and ask, "how are you?," and I was not fine, but would say that I was, I would be doing so in order to impress him or her. I relied on my intellect to impress, and as a

result, I afflicted my soul. All the while, my soul would still be in pain, with no way out, because I refused to allow its healing. Perhaps you have done the same? Perhaps you have lied to others about yourself in situations just like this, and perhaps your soul is still hurting. If it is, refuse to live that way any longer. Make God's Will yours. *Learn to love you so that you can love others.*

(Eph 5:28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

This mind-set is critical in marriage. A husband is required to love his wife, but he can't do so if he doesn't love himself. Do you love yourself? This is far more than dark words on a page. I'm talking about BEING loving, ACTING loving, SAYING loving things, THINKING

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loving things. First to you, and then to your wife. How often do you really take care of your soul? Do you make sure you are doing the things that take care of it, or do you do things that make it feel badly? Men are to love their wives and this is only possible if they love themselves.

(James 2:8) If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

We are a kind of “royal” people in God’s eyes. God wants us to make His Will ours. We are to use our will to guide our lives. Our thoughts are to control what we do, say, think, etc., and together, our thoughts and will can direct our soul into the most beautiful situations and results.

***How can we live well?
By loving well!***

I ask you to make God’s Will

your own in this regard. Start loving your soul so that you can love others. Start loving others so that you can love God. The easiest way to get started is to stop afflicting your soul with the things that make it feel miserable and by getting started doing those things that make it feel great, just like God designed. Go and DO WELL! LOVE!

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown