

DICHOTOMY, TRICHOTOMY, OR...SOMETHING ELSE?

This introduces us to the question of definition &/ description:

1. We are **both** material and immaterial

We could also say outer man and inner man.

This **separates** Christianity from any and all evolutionary views which teach some form of monism / monistic view.

- When the body dies, you die
- When breathing & brain activity cease to function you cease to exist

All Christians believe we are material (a body) & immaterial (the you!).

When the body dies, you go to be with the Lord.

The you never dies (Saved and unsaved.)

The you will be reunited with a glorified body.

This understanding (material & immaterial) is where we begin and end!

2. The immaterial **seems** to have more than one part or...substance / element.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul (ψυχή) and spirit (πνεύματος), and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart καρδίας.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit (πνεῦμα) and soul (ψυχή) and body (σῶμα) be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 5:24** Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

Mark 12:28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? **Mark 12:29** And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: **Mark 12:30** And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart (καρδίας), and with all thy soul (ψυχή), and with all thy mind (διανοίας), and with all thy strength (ἰσχύος): this is the first commandment. **Mark 12:31** And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh (σαρκός) and spirit (πνεύματος), perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Revelation 2:23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins (νεφροῦς) and hearts (καρδίας): and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

The Scripture seems to use an (bewildering) array of descriptors for the immaterial part of humankind!

Dichotomy: summarizes these under 2 heads (material / immaterial)

Trichotomy summarizes these under 3 heads (body, soul, spirit) → which is (nearly?) impossible to demonstrate Biblically how they fit together!

Kidneys: (כְּלֵי) literally kidneys, reins, innermost part of a person...

This word is found 31x in the OT

Psalm 7:9 Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts (לְבוֹת) and reins (וּכְלֵי־וֹת).

Psalm 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins (כְּלֵי־וֹתִי) and my heart (וּלְבָי).

Psalm 73:21 Thus my heart (לְבָבִי) was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins (וּכְלֵי־וֹתִי).

Proverbs 23:15 My son, if thine heart (לִבְךָ) be wise, my heart (לְבָי) shall rejoice, even mine.

Proverbs 23:16 Yea, my reins (כְּלֵי־וֹתִי) shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.

Jeremiah 11:20 But, O LORD of hosts, that judgest righteously, that triest the **reins** (פְּלִיּוֹת) and **the heart** (לֵב), let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I revealed my cause.

Jeremiah 12:2 Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root: they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit: thou art near in their mouth, and far from their reins (מִכְלִי־תִּיקָהּ).

Jeremiah 17:9 The **heart** (הֶלֶב) is deceitful (עָקָב) above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? **Jeremiah 17:10** I the LORD search the **heart** (לֵב), I try the **reins** (פְּלִיּוֹת), even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Jeremiah 20:12 But, O LORD of hosts, that triest the righteous, and seest the **reins** (פְּלִיּוֹת) and **the heart** (לֵב), let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I opened my cause.

Revelation 2:23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the **reins** (νεφρούς) and **hearts** (καρδίας): and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Heart (לֵב) (καρδία): the center of man, thinking, feeling, willing – the inner man, the command center

(לֵב) 593x in the OT

(καρδία): 156x in the NT

Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of **his heart** (לֵב) was only evil continually. **Genesis 6:6** And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart (אֶל-לִבּוֹ).

Genesis 8:21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said **in his heart** (אֶל-לִבּוֹ), I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's **heart** (לֵב) is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

Genesis 17:17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said **in his heart** (בְּלִבּוֹ), Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

Genesis 24:45 And before I had done speaking **in mine heart** (אֶל-לִבִּי), behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew water: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee.

Genesis 27:41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said **in his heart** (בְּלִבּוֹ), The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

2 Samuel 6:16 And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him **in her heart** (לִבָּהּ).

1 Kings 3:12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding **heart** (לֵב); so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

Psalms 4:7 Thou hast put gladness **in my heart** (בְּלִבִּי), more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.

Psalms 33:11 The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of **his heart** (לֵב) to all generations.

Jeremiah 17:9 The **heart** (הֶלֶב) is deceitful (עָקָב) above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? **Jeremiah 17:10** I the LORD search the **heart** (לֵב), I try the **reins** (פְּלִיּוֹת), even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep **thy heart** (לִבְּךָ) with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh **in his heart** (בְּנַפְשׁוֹ), so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but **his heart** (לִבּוֹ) is not with thee.

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? **for out of the abundance of the heart** (Ἐκ γὰρ τοῦ περισσεύματος τῆς καρδίας) the mouth speaketh. **Matthew 12:35** A good man **out of the good treasure of the heart** (ἐκ τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ θησαυροῦ) bringeth forth good things: and an evil man **out of the evil treasure** (ἐκ τοῦ πονηροῦ θησαυροῦ) bringeth forth evil things.

Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; **but their heart** (ἡ δὲ καρδία αὐτῶν) is far from me. **Matthew 15:16** And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? **Matthew 15:17** Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? **Matthew 15:18** But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth **from the heart** (ἐκ τῆς καρδίας); and they defile the man. **Matthew 15:19** **For out of the heart** (Ἐκ γὰρ τῆς καρδίας) proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: **Matthew 15:20** These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.