

## Session II

## Spiritual Wholeness

### Introduction

- A. Have considered (1) the context of Christianity and (2) the #1 Truth that God is a Person.
- B. In this second session: WHO we are -- and WHAT has happened to us.

### I. God Created us Like Himself -- a PERSON.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26,27;

- A. God made us like Himself -- a PERSON of self-consciousness, self-determination, capable to rational, emotional, volitional, and social relationships. We are a living, finite, spiritual, non-material, substantive individual being.
- B. God made us a Person with many RIGHTS. (See Gen 1-3)  
We have the right to be heard, feel, express emotions, have needs, have needs met, be cared for, develop our potential, to learn, to make choices, to be responsible, to have our own opinions, to receive help, to give help, to be loved, to give love, to be different from other people, and to enjoy life.

### II. God Created us Like Himself -- a Spirit(ual) Person.

- A. Spirit(ual) is WHO we are -- we are not primarily mind, emotions, will, body, or a social person. These are simply how we as a spirit person - FUNCTIONS. (I'm using "spirit" as "heart" is used in Prov 3:1,5 and 4:4,23)
- B. Spirit(ual) is our basic structure -- how we are designed, put together, and given equipment and abilities to live and serve. Spirit is the determining character of our potential. We are not a "neutral" kind of person. We are not simply a "rational animal."
- C. Spirit(ual) is particularly indicative of our vertical relationship with God. As a spirit person we were given the spiritual equipment and ability to hear God, to speak to God, to receive His love and to love Him. Because we are spirit people we can enter into a personal relationship with God. Our primary character cannot be defined by our horizontal relationships with the world and people about us -- as important as that may be for us in the will of God. We are primarily vertical people -- related to God by His design. Is 43:21

### **III. As a Spirit(ual) Person -- we are now Fallen -- and Vulnerable to Error and Sin.**

**A. In the Fall the relationship we had with God was broken. The vertical dimension was severed with all the serious consequences that followed: eternal and spiritual life became death -- spiritual strength became weakness -- spiritual love, joy and peace became hatred, sorrow and anxiety -- spiritual fulfillment and well-being became spiritual emptiness, frustration and spiritual meaninglessness -- the knowledge of God became ignorance of God -- holiness of life and the joy in righteousness became sinful bondage, immorality, and the delight in unrighteousness -- and freedom from Satan became enslavement to Satan through his lies and temptation.**

**B. Even though born again -- we are still vulnerable.**

- 1. Through the error/programming of our past (childhood, school, church, etc.)**
- 2. Through the “scars across our soul” in betrayal, abandonment, abuse, etc.**
- 3. Through the “old nature” and its self-centeredness.**
- 4. Through the sinful priorities of the world culture.**
- 5. Through the error and deception of the enemy.**
- 6. Through the failures of the Church.**
- 7. Through our personal errors, sins, self-control, self-centeredness.**

### **IV. As Born Again -- Reunited with God -- We can Live in Freedom.**

**A. We must understand and internalize our legal position in Jesus Christ.**

**B. We must learn how to love God preeminently.**

**C. We must learn how to live in harmony with the four deeds of redemption.**

**D. We must be willing to uncover, and have God uncover the reasons why we are not living in freedom. This may be painful. We may not like what comes to the surface. We may have repressed it for years.**

**E. Illustrations of powerful scars -- repressed problems --**

- 1. “I don’t measure up.”**
- 2. I sinned (affair, abortion, stole, lied, deceived)**
- 3. “I’m abandoned.”**
- 4. “I’m unacceptable.”**
- 5. “It won’t work for me.”**

**F. Illustrations of powerful “compensation.”**

- 1. “I’m better than those other people.” -- pride and despising others.**
- 2. “I know better than those other people.” -- better and more intelligent.**
- 3. “I’m more spiritual than those other people.” -- self-righteous.**
- 4. “I know what to do -- more than those other people.” -- arrogance.**
- 5. “I’ve worked harder and deserve more than those other people.” -- pride.**

**Conclusion: Heavenly Father, I confess my sin to You. You made me like Yourself as a spirit person -- but I have spent most of my life taking care of my body. I have been often proud of my body and often ashamed of my body. For most of my life I have neglected You and neglected responding to You in and by my spirit. I invite You to come into my life and uncover my sin and repressed errors. Please rescue me.**

**Victor Matthews**