

THE LORD'S CHURCH IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT...

1. Was planned and purposed by God before time began Ephesians 3:8-11
2. Was built by and upon Jesus Christ God's Son Matthew 16:16-18
3. Was purchased with the shed blood of Jesus Christ Acts 20:28
4. Has Jesus Christ as its Savior and Head Ephesians 5:23
5. Has no creed but the New Testament Acts 2:36
6. Has no rule of faith or discipline except Christ's Word John 14:20-23
7. Has no earthly headquarters Ephesians 1:21-23
8. Is composed of all the saved Acts 2:47
9. Is sanctified and cleansed by Jesus Christ Ephesians 5:26
10. Works and worships in the Name of Jesus Christ Acts 4:12
11. Urges the unity of all believers in Jesus Christ Ephesians 4:1-6
12. Will be gloriously presented unto Jesus Christ Ephesians 5:27

REQUIRES NO MORE FOR MEMBERSHIP THAN IS NECESSARY TO BE SAVED

1. HEAR THE WORD OF GOD (Acts 15:7).
2. BELIEVE IN CHRIST (Hebrews 11:6, John 3:16).
3. REPENT OF SINS (Luke 13:3,5, Acts 17:30).
4. CONFESS CHRIST BEFORE MEN (Matthew 10:32).
5. BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST (Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:27)

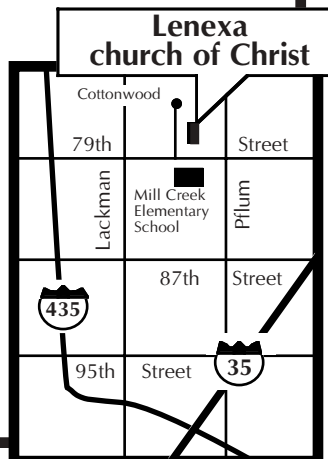
All Spiritual Blessings Are Found In Christ! (Ephesians 1:3)

7845 Cottonwood
Lenexa, Kansas 66216
(913) 631-6519

Send a
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Elders:
Jim Stauffer
Jim Tapp
Deacons:
Kurt McLoud
Kyle Pope
Evangelists:
Kyle Pope
Jim Stauffer

MEETING TIMES
Sunday – Bible Classes 9:30 AM
Worship Services 10:20 AM & 6:00
Wednesday – Bible Classes 7:00 PM



The Lenexa EDIFIER

...Let us pursue the things *which* make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. – Romans 14:19

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Questions & Answers

by Kyle Pope

This past week I received two questions via the internet which addressed interesting issues that I thought provided a good opportunity to teach on a couple of matters. Below are the questions and the responses I gave. The names have been deleted and some of the wording has been clarified.

“body, soul and spirit” as seen in passages like I Thessalonians 5:23 - “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Body Soul & Spirit

Respected brother in christ,

I am _____. How are you? I am fine here in India. It is good to hear from you. I have some doubts about what Scripture means by a person's “body, soul and spirit.” Could you please explain to me about this thing. Thank you.

Your brother in christ, _____

Dear _____,

If I understand your question, you are wondering what the distinction is between

The term “body” refers to the external, visible and material part of a human being. This was fashioned by God from dust (Genesis 2:7a) and when a person dies this part of our being returns to dust (Genesis 3:19; Job 34:15; Psalm 104:29; Ecclesiastes 3:20; 12:7).

When God created human beings He breathed into this body of dust an inner person which is the part of them that gives them life (Genesis 2:7b). Without this inner, unseen and non-material part of a human being a person is dead (James 2:26). The very definition of death is the separation of the spirit

from the body (James 2:26; Ecclesiastes 12:7). This inner part of a human being is called a number of different things in the Bible. In the Hebrew Old Testament it was called either the *nephesh* (usually translated - "soul") which refers to one's life, breath and seat of appetites, or the *ruach* (usually translated - "spirit") referring also to one's life, breath, the wind, someone's courage or disposition. In the New Testament these words are matched with Greek words of the same basic meaning, *psyche* is the "soul" and *pneuma* is the "spirit."

As these words are used in Scripture, most often they are used to mean the same thing - the inner part of a person that gives them life and lives on after death. Both the soul and spirit are said to live on beyond this life (Matthew 10:28; Revelation 20:4; James 2:26; Ecclesiastes 12:7). Occasionally however, Scripture makes a slight distinction between the soul and spirit, as seen in I Thessalonians 5:23 (quoted above) and Hebrews 4:12 which says - "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." I don't believe that this text teaches that a person has two inner entities - one a soul and the other a spirit. Instead I believe it is referring to different aspects (or dispositions) of the same inner being. The "soul" is the aspect of the inner man which is inclined towards sen-

sation and feeling, while the "spirit" is that aspect of the inner man which looks towards and accepts the things of God.

This distinction is seen in the way that the two adjectives taken from the Greek words are used. One who is *pneumatikos*, usual translated "spiritual," accepts the teachings of God and focuses on heaven (Romans 8:6; I Corinthians 3:1), while the one who is *psychikos*, usually translated "sensual" or "natural" (but literally "soulish") focuses on earthly things involving feeling and sensation. The one who is "soulish" is said to be earthly (James 3:15), not having the spirit (Jude 19), because they refuse to receive the things of the spirit (I Corinthians 2:14). This is similar to the description of the "fleshly" (or "carnal") person (Romans 8:5-8), but a "soulish" individual may address aspects of their inner man, but more on the basis of what they "feel is right" rather than what God has revealed. Our present physical body is described as "soulish" (NKJV "natural") body, but the resurrection body will be "spiritual" (I Corinthians 15:44-46). This distinction is not always made in Scripture, but when it is it addresses the focus of a person's disposition. I hope this addresses your question.

Kyle Pope
Lenexa church of Christ
kmpope@worldnet.att.net

Liberal or Conservative?

I was reading an article of yours that handled the issue of liberalism and conservatism real well. I agree with your description and application of those real life issues as co-existing in a harmony of understanding based first and always on the strong foundation of the scriptures. My question is, how do I apply that understanding to my political party standing? Should I join the Democratic Party or the Republican Party? Or, some other party, sifting through the issues that adhere to the Bible and applying a balanced, flexible, and biblically intelligent approach to politics and political issues. That sounds difficult. Do you have any simple advice?

Sincerely, _____,

•••••

Dear _____,

Thanks for your e-mail and the kind words about my article. As a preacher I must begin by saying that my allegiance is first and foremost to God and His word. More than national, ethnic, racial, political, educational or social bonds, I am a Christian above all else. As such I believe that a person must obey God above everything. When it comes to politics, the Bible teaches that Christians must submit to both the civil authorities that are over them (Romans 13:1-8) and the laws which they make (I Peter 2:13-17). Only when laws are passed which seek to prevent or hinder obedience to God must a Christian disobey them (Acts 5:29). In the United States, we are fortunate to live in a nation where a process exists in which we can in-

fluence laws and who is in authority over us. While the truth is that civil authorities only derive their authority from God, not all authorities acknowledge this (Romans 13:1). A Christian is not compelled to involve themselves in the political process at all, but as individuals a Christian is at liberty to try and influence political action as they judge best. On the other hand, it is not the role of the church to take political action, but rather to teach and stand-up for the truth (I Tim. 3:15).

How should an individual decide how and with what political party they can best influence the political process in a godly manner?

In line with the principles outlined above, I would say that they should look at the party, proposal or candidate and see if it harmonizes with what the Bible says. If it does not, a Christian should not support such efforts. An individual can only use their best judgment in such things. Sometimes people will disappoint us by saying one thing and doing another. In the current political environment I cannot support the Democrat Party because of their present stand in favor of abortion on demand and homosexuality. Although I generally vote Republican, that does not mean that I support every position every Republican takes. If someone chooses to participate in the political process they should always use God's word for the benchmark of whether a position or candidate is worthy of support or not. I hope this addresses your concerns.

