Welcome to Pillars of Marriage. We are doing reviews of key topics we have taught over the years and today we pick up the ever interesting topic of The spirit of a man, soul of a man, the Body of a man AND THE HEART.

1 Thessalonians 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.”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Genesis 2:7 “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”.

The Physical Side.

God formed, created and made man as a tripartite being. The full nature of man is covered in 1st Thessalonians 5:23 as printed above. We are Spirit beings, with an Organic substance called the Soul that together reside in a Body. The body is the housing case which has two Fundamental trees inside it called the spirit of man and the soul of man. The grounds inside the “House” where these two trees reside is called the Heart.

The scripture in Genesis 2:7 begins by expounding the process of the formation of a man. ‘And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground...’ Genesis 2:7 first presents Man’s body, His physical side. The bible generally uses three terms for the physical side of our being: Dust, Flesh and Body. I will go into greater details as regards the physical side of our being later in this teachings, but just as a broader introduction to what we are learning in this new dimension, let us touch on elements of the physical side of our being. As I have stated above, God in Genesis 2:7, first presents man’s physical side in his formation. God formed it of the dust from the ground. Man’s material relationship to the ground is put into the foreground here. As a general creative rule set by the Almighty, every created being must look back to its source for its sustenance. The body came from the ground and it must therefore be sustained by products from the ground.

Since the first part of man presented in Genesis 2:7 is the physical part, the continued subsequent verses of Genesis 2:8-16 carry this theme into details. Man continually takes his physical being from the ground by having to maintain his body by eating of that which grows from the ground. Since the creator first presented the physical side, the first thing he provided for and opened up was the physical environment. We read in Genesis 2:8-16, that the first thing God did after creating man was plant the Garden for man to cultivate and keep (vs 15) and from which he could freely eat (vs 16). Man who is from the ground, lives from the ground. The material creation provided man with his occupation and sustenance. This is a profound statement right there. THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PROVIDES MAN WITH HIS OCCUPATION AND PHYSICAL SUSTENANCE.

Why profound? God raised up the body and physical side of our being and planted us into the garden of the earth to provide us with BUSY-NESS: Occupation: work with your own hands (1st Thessalonian 4:11.) The body should fundamentally be used as a means of work, occupation and sustenance. The body should not be presented as an object and avenue for intoxications and immorality. 1st Corinthians 6:13. “...The body is not for fornication but for the Lord and the Lord for the body.” The body was primarily created as a vehicle for world and material consciousness. 1st Thessalonians 4:3-5 “For this is the will of God even your sanctification, that you should abstain from sexual immorality. That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor: not in the passion of lust even as the gentiles which know not God.”

Genesis 2.15-16 sets a fundamental law of human existence on earth. God gave man the work of cultivating and keeping the garden, and on the basis of this he gave him the freedom to eat. The apostle Paul stated this as a principle of discipline in 2nd Thessalonians 3:10: “For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.” Paul carried this creational principle set in the Garden of Eden over to the spiritual ministry (1st Cor 10.3-11; 1st Tim 17-18). Life in this world is in the body and must ever be under the order set in creation. The notion of a spiritual life that is uprooted from the ground in that it takes the means of life without having undertaken the duty of gainful labor is ungodly. There is no room for a life of spiritual pursuit that is not founded on the relationship between man and the ground set in creation. This is an essential part of the doctrine of man.
Moving on further, Job 10:10-12 “10 Hast thou not poured me out as milk, and curdled me like cheese? 11 Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews. 12 Thou hast granted me life and favor, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit.”

Here we are presented to the body in very interesting dimensions. As we have studied above, the principle functionality of the body is to keep us busy and occupied with work and the material world at large. Now when it comes to other dimensions of relationships, THE BODY CANNOT TAKE THE LEAD. When it comes to dealing with God, the body must step back and let the spirit of man handle that platform. Similarly, when it comes to relationships with other human beings, the body must equally step aside and let the Soul of man call the shots. Therefore, Job presents the body as a hosting as a fence, a barbed wire, with poles of bones, sinews and skin. Your skin is as a curtain and your hair is the covering and roofing material. Well, we could call your hair “Mabati Dumu zass”. The body is a wrapper, a packaging material, coat and a testa, seed pod, tent and tabernacle. (2nd Peter 1:14). The body is a house and a cover.

The human body is God’s reference and contact point that he uses to put himself into a personal relationship with the physical world. God has a relationship with the physical through the bodies of creatures. When you want to learn a lot regarding the creative elements of matter (Soil, water, gemstones etc.) study the human body. This point is very vital in our discussions regarding relationship.

When we endeavor to take the matrimonial journey we should not peg the body as our main spring board. In short, do not choose a partner by the avenue of looks, shapes and curves. Proverbs 31:30 “Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that fears the Lord, she shall be praised.”

The Spiritual Side.

Back to Genesis 2:7, the next thing that is presented is the breath of life in man. When God breathed directly into the body of dust, He formed the Spirit of man in him (Zechariah 12:1). The spirit of man is fundamentally formed to stay in contact and in touch with God. That the spirit of man came next in the pecking order of man’s formation as presented in Genesis 2:7, is seen when God raised up man’s relational need to the spiritual dimension. Remember Genesis 2:8-16, presents the physical environment as an answer to the physical side of man that came first. Genesis 2:17, two trees concern man’s relation to God. The theme of life and death takes up what God gave to man in breathing into him the breath of life. The tree of life shows that when God gave man the breath of life, man was not given immortality. God gave him life, and he could live forever by eating of the tree of life. This is very significant for our understanding of Gen 2.7. We saw that on the side of the body, God set up man to maintain his life in an active relationship with the ground. Now we see the same on the other side of man’s constitution. God breathed into man the breath of life so that man became alive, but he had to be maintained in life. Life was not a matter that man could leave in the past. He was engaged in the ongoing relationship of life, and for this he had to turn to that which was outside of him. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil touches on the grant of life in Gen 2.7 in two ways. Through this tree God set before man the possibility of losing life, of dying.

This theme presents to us the world around which the spirit of man dwells. The spirit of man lives in the unseen which is eternal. Out of the three parts of the nature of man, the spirit of man is the deepest part. John 4:24 states that God is spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth. Since God is spirit, for him to communicate he needs a spirit. In Genesis 3:8, God would occasionally talk to Adam and that was through the spirit of Adam for Proverbs 29:27 states that “The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord searching all the inward parts of the belly.”

In Eden, before Adam sinned, his spirit was in perfect Harmony with God and the rest of the nature of man. The spirit retained its highest authority amongst the 3 attributes. Adam had dominion and he exercised it effectively because the word spirit means “ruach”, creative force and element. Thus the perfect spirit allowed him to have dominion over God’s creation

After Adam sinned, something happened. God had said in Genesis 2:17 that Adam would die upon the violation of the commands regarding the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam violated this command and he did not die physically. What part died? The spirit of man became dead and dormant particularly towards God.

After this act, God sent cherubin to protect the tree of life and drove Adam and Eve from Eden. From then on until the arrival of Jesus Christ, whenever God wanted to communicate to man, He had to send his Spirit to hover upon the spirit of man. This is commonly known as stirring up the spirit. Othniel, Gideon, cyrus are common examples.

A person who is not born again has a dormant and dead spirit towards God. 1st Corinthians 1:18 states that the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. When Jesus came he told Nicodemus in John 3:5 that except a man be born of the water and of the spirit he cannot see the kingdom of God. That is what is called re0generation. The revival of a dormant spirit.
The Soulish side.

Genesis 2:7 states that man became a living Soul when the breath of God slapped the body of dust. This means that the Soul is a by-product and lives in between the Spirit of man and the Body of man. As God met the need of the body by planting a physical environment and then met the spiritual need by addressing the two trees, so did God Acknowledge the need for companionship by raising the helpmeet for Adam.

The soul of man is fundamentally created as a relational organism particularly inter-human relations. Leviticus 17:11-14 expounds on the theme of the word life. The word life used in these texts should be translated and read “Nephesh” which means Soul. So the Soul of every creature seats in the blood. The soul is an intangible organ but it lives and swims in the blood. This theme is very key to understanding the soul as a tool for relationships. We are related to our family members primarily by blood. We are off springs of our parents, through our grandparents, ancestors and deep into ante descents. We carry attributes, characters, proclivities and behavioral patterns through our “soulish” line. We can categorically state that the other name for Soul is Blood.

The soul hosts the being of man; the self, personality, thinking aspect of man (Imaginations and reasoning) beliefs, values and human traditions. The emotions, feelings, desires, motives, intentions and deeds of humans are all packaged within the Soul. The soul has the natural, Basic, Human or Animal life called Psyche. Remember the spirit hosts the higher eternal life called Zoe.

The Soul redeems another soul. Jesus died on the cross and shed his “Soul” to save our soul. When blood is shed, a Soul is released and when a Soul is released, zoe life is activated to redeem the Soul that was targeted. Look at it this way, Animals have a soul. In the Old Testament, they used to sacrifice animals and sprinkle their blood on the altar for the covering of sins of individuals, clans and nations at large. In the spiritual realm, what actually happened is that the soul of the dead animal would be released from its body and in return God would send a spirit to cover the sins of the people temporarily so that God would not see sin but his Holy spirit. God’s spiritual books must always balance. When blood is shed, another blood must be released to balance the accounts.

But the blood of Jesus speaks better things tan the blood of bulls and goats. Selah. Think about it.

Looking at the Soul from the relational angle, Souls are knit together mainly through sex. Sex is blood-shed which means it is a sacrifice. That is why a marriage bed is an altar of sacrifice to be revered. So he soul of a partner should be studied in details before one decides to engage in matrimony. This is because, ultimately, there will be transfers and transactions of blood between the two love birds over the years. Because relationships are centered on the soul and the Soul seats in the blood, Lovers are associated to priests who, in the O.T were fellows from the “bloody” Levitical lineage. To fall in love is in actual sense enrolling into the priesthood.

All souls are God’s Properties. (Ezekiel 18:4). When Adam sinned, the devil rented the Soul of Man and brought with him his seeds and products called sin. The Soul is the part of man that sins –Micah 6:7. The soul became the servant of Sin. This very soul that hosts sin is the very organ that links up two love birds. Eros love is linked to the Souls of two partners but at the same time garbage can flow from one soul to another. When you fall in love, you fall for the soul of another being including its contents. Pause and think about it.

What happens to the soul when the spirit is regenerated? The soul must go through a process of being renewed and restored. The transformation of the Soul is not automatic. It takes time.

To be continued next week. (By Teacher Sammy Nyanjom).