

## What is trichotomy? 3

We must also consider some other Biblical terms in this connection.

**The heart** is the gateway between the spirit and the soul, containing the conscience of the spirit and the mind of the soul. As such it is the source for all the issues of life (Prov 4:23).

**The new man** (or new nature) is the new creation in man (2 Cor 5:17), that which was regenerated when we were born again. It is the likeness of Christ in us (Eph 4:24), enabling us to put on Christ (Rm 13:14). By doing this we make no provision for the flesh.

**The old man** (or old nature) is the old Adamic life that we were born with – human life. It is full of sin and is never improved. It will be destroyed in eternal punishment in hell in the unregenerate, but is committed to death in the co-crucifixion with Christ in the regenerate (Rm 6:6, 11, 14; ‘done away with’ NKJV or ‘destroyed’ AV means ‘made idle’, ‘unemployed’ not ‘annihilated’). It is synonymous with **‘the flesh’** in the sense of the sinful principle in man (‘flesh’ can have very many meanings). This is proved by a comparison of Gal 5:19 (referring to flesh) and Col 3:5 (referring to the old man) which share much of the same characteristics.

**The inner man** (Eph 3:16) **inward man**, (Rm 7:22; 2 Cor 4:16). This refers to the soul in contrast to the outward man, the body. The renewing of the inward man = the renewing of the mind (Rm 12:1-2), feeding the soul with God’s word.

It is important to understand that the soul is not the old man. The old man is that sinful principle of Adamic life which used to dominate our soul making it sin. The soul is a neutral vessel; we choose what our soul manifests. This is why we are called to deny ourselves and take up the cross seven times in the Gospels. We deny our old way of life and take up the cross – put to death our members (Col 3:5), that is, consider the old nature dead on Christ’s cross (Rm 6:11) and then live in the good of that by putting on the new nature (Eph 4:22-24). We live by faith in God’s word that the old nature is dead, and then practically apply that by denying it, refusing to feed it, refusing to live in it, and then walk in the Spirit (or put on Christ). When we do this, our life becomes an expression of Christ’s life (Gal 2:20), ‘I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh [i.e. physical life] I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.’

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