

Essence: Soul and Spirit

1. What constitutes a human being?
 - a. A human being is comprised of one element: the physical body.
 - b. A human being is made up of two elements: the physical body and an immaterial soul.
 - c. A human being has three parts: the physical body and two immaterial components called soul and spirit.
 - d. Only b and c.

2. The terms "spirit" and "soul" are synonyms.
 - a. True.
 - b. False.

3. Do all living creatures have an immaterial aspect to their being?
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.

4. What is characteristic of a human being's soul?
 - a. It is eternal.
 - b. It can have desires and emotions.
 - c. It can have intellect and knowledge.
 - d. It can sin and be redeemed.
 - e. All of the above.
 - f. Only a and d.

Essence: Soul and Spirit Teacher Notes

Teacher note: Quizzes cover a lot of material. Take the time to help the student learn the biblical answer to each question and have fun along the way (i.e. you can be a game show host!). Use the online version of the quiz as well!

To learn more about these questions, consider this reference:

1. One, Two, Three... How many parts can man be?
(www.Helpmewithbiblestudy.org/7Humans/Essence123HowManyPartsCanManBe.aspx)
2. What does the biblical term "soul" mean?
(www.Helpmewithbiblestudy.org/7Humans/EssenceSoul.aspx)

1. What constitutes a human being?

- a. A human being is comprised of one element: the physical body.

Sorry, that is incorrect. The human being is comprised of much more than a physical component.

- b. A human being is made up of two elements: the physical body and an immaterial soul.

Correct! The answer is "b"!

A human being is made up of two parts.

- c. A human being has three parts: the physical body and two immaterial components called soul and spirit.

Sorry, that is incorrect. The spirit of a human being is a part of his soul and is not a distinct entity.

- d. Only b and c.

Sorry, that is incorrect. Since "c" is incorrect, then "d" is as well!

2. The terms "spirit" and "soul" are synonyms.

- a. True.

Sorry, that is incorrect. Because the human spirit is a part of the soul, the two cannot be synonyms.

- b. False.

Correct! The answer is "b"!

While both biblical terms, "spirit" and "soul" are used interchangeably, they are not synonyms. The spirit is a part of the soul and the term soul is used to represent the totality of a person.

3. Do all living creatures have an immaterial aspect to their being?

a. Yes.

Sorry, that is incorrect. If we define the soul as including a spiritual ability that can relate to God, then animals do not have a soul or spirit.

b. No.

Correct! The answer is "b"!

The Hebrew term for soul is "nephesh", which can have two meanings. One meaning refers to the essence that makes an animal or human being alive or living such as blood. This meaning has led to the confusion that animals have an immaterial aspect to their being. The biblical text does not support this idea.

The other meaning for "nephesh" refers to the immaterial aspect or inner life of a person that represents the person's personality, emotions, and will. In contrast to His other creations which He created multitudes, God created a single human being with the distinction of having been given something more than a physical life; man became a living soul (Gen 2:7).

The souls of human beings are distinctive from that of animals, because human beings have an immaterial element of their nature that relates to God.

4. What is characteristic of a human being's soul?

a. It is eternal.

Sorry, that is incorrect. At least for Christians, the soul is eternal. However, this isn't the only answer that is correct!

"Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord — for we walk by faith, not by sight — we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." (2 Cor 5:6-8)

b. It can have desires and emotions.

Sorry, that is incorrect. This is true! Jesus speaks of His soul being troubled; however, there are more correct answers!

"Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour." (John 12:27)

Likewise, Jesus' spirit was troubled.

"When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.'" (John 13:21)

c. It can have intellect and knowledge.

Sorry, that is incorrect. This is true! But there are more correct answers!

"I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well." (Ps 139:14)

d. It can sin and be redeemed.

Sorry, that is incorrect. This is true! But there are more correct answers!

"Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul." (1 Pet 2:11)

"and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls." (1 Pet 1:8-9)

e. All of the above.

Correct! The answer is "e"!

All of the above. The term "soul" represents the totality of a person. The New Testament tells us clearly that death will separate the physical body from you (Matt 10:28). So while death separates you from your physical body, nothing separates you from your soul.

f. Only a and d.

Sorry, that is incorrect. Both "a" and "d" are correct; however, all of the other options are correct as well!