

iLife, Part 1 - iSearch: I Can't Believe My 'I'

iPod – released by Apple in 2001, world's most popular media player
hundreds of accessories – NY Times calls this the “iPod ecosystem”

iLife – our thoughts about ourselves, others and God create our life!

Mark 12:29-31 (KJV) And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:29-31 (NLT) Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

iSearch: I Can't Believe My 'I'

ILLUSTRATION: Broken Leg (*January 15, 1999*)
Have you ever felt like your Christianity was broken?

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

All things? Really? Does this verse really work?! I can't believe my 'I' ...!

John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Luke 24:34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

My freedom from sin is as real and literal as Jesus' resurrection! So ...

QUESTION: If I am, why don't I?

The key is to plan to get well (!), and that's what this series is about.

Be like former inmate Charles Dutton who later became a successful Broadway star. When asked how he made such a remarkable transition, he replied, "Unlike the other prisoners, I never decorated my cell."

My problem in many of these areas is my 'I' – my relationship with myself. I can't have a proper relationship with God or with others if my relationship with myself is built on **lies** (denying behavior), **excuses** (defending behavior), or **obsession** ("uncontrollable persistence of an idea or emotion in the mind").

PRIDE (middle letter "I") is not just thinking too much OF yourself, it is thinking too much ABOUT yourself. Satan's original sin was "I will" (!).

How many would admit that many Christians seem to be "broken"?!
To understand this, we need to go back to the first man and woman ...

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

But Adam lived to be over 900 years old? So what actually died?
(Three Concentric Circles – spirit, soul, body)

Pneuma – “spirit”
Pneumatikos – “spirit-controlled”
Psuche – “soul”
Psuchikos – “soul-controlled”

Zoe – “God's life”
Logos – “God's logic”
Aletheia – “God's truth”

SPIRIT: The biblical word for the human spirit is the same word used for the Holy Spirit. Why? Because they are designed to be connected! Our spirit is the part of our being that is God-like (Genesis 1:26 – “in our image”). Adam was as much like God as he could be without being God!

- Spirit is what distinguishes humanity from the animal world
- God communicates with us through our spirit (not our mind)
- God intended that our spirit would be in charge of our lives

SOUL: This word encompasses the mind (intellect), emotions (feelings), and will (volition). Notice that “psuche” is similar to “psyche”? Psychology is the study of these three elements, but with no thought given to “spirit.” Basically, the mind thinks, the emotions feel, and the will decides – so it is the will that determines our course of action (and our eternal destiny).

- Soul is the connection between the spirit and the body (translator)
- Soul is where humanity got broken – the part that is the problem!
- God never intended that the soul would be in charge of our lives

BODY: The body was made to relate to the natural world around us. It is the house in which our spirit and soul reside. Though it does have its own appetites, it will basically obey the soul's commands.

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**.

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a **living soul**; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Living Soul – in Hebrew “chay nephesh” and in Greek “zoe psuche”

Psalms 8:4-6 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

God never intended that human beings should function intellectually apart from His influence and instruction (LOGOS or LOGIC). You were never meant to be an independent thinker! **Our reasoning was always meant to have a supernatural element!**

When Adam fell, WE got broken! We lost God's LIFE (zoe), His LOGIC (logos), and His TRUTH (aletheia). **Did you know that TRUTH is not the same as FACTS?** Satan sometimes doles out facts while completely distorting truth!

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

There is no truth without God. Is it any wonder then that humanism begins by attacking the very existence of absolute truth? Absolute truth necessitates the existence of an ultimate authority – God!

Novelist Lloyd Douglas tells about a man who went to visit his old violin teacher and asked, "What's new?" "I'll tell you what's new!" said the teacher. He grabbed his tuning fork and banged it. The tuning fork, at 440 cycles per second, vibrated an "A note" which came out loud and clear. "Do you hear that? That's an 'A'" he proclaimed. "Now, upstairs a soprano rehearses endlessly and she's always off key. Next door I have a cello player who plays his instrument very poorly. There is an out-of-tune piano on the other side of me. I'm surrounded by terrible noise night and day." Plunking the "A" again, he continued. "Do you hear that? That's an 'A' today. It will be an 'A' tomorrow. It will never change."

Adam existed as a SPIRIT-CONTROLLED man, and that's what initially happens to every person who is born again. However, our lifetime habits of being SOUL-CONTROLLED continually try to exert themselves ... and when we allow that to happen we feel BROKEN all over again.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man (**psuchikos**) receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

It's not just that we WON'T accept spiritual things, it's that we CAN'T (!).

We are not controlled by what is true, but by what we believe to be true.

iSearch: I Can't Believe My 'I'

QUESTION: If I am, why don't I?

God's love is unconditional, but His benefits are not. **God's PROMISES are not instant and they are not automatic.** Only to the degree we follow God's PRINCIPLES will we receive His PROVISION.

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

We say it all the time – Jesus went to the cross so I wouldn't have to go there. That's true, but did you ever think of this? JESUS WENT TO THE CROSS SO I COULD GO THERE – EVERY DAY!

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Victory doesn't come from doing good things occasionally, but DAILY!

It is never too late to start living an abundant life!

John 11:39-40 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?