

Soul or Spirit

The word DISCIPLE means “to follow.” Every human being on the planet is a disciple, a follower of something.

An honest examination of your life would reveal what you follow as a disciple. Maybe you are a diet or fitness disciple or just the opposite, a snack food and fast food disciple. Could you be a multiple sports disciple, or are you a one sport disciple? I know people who are automobile or motorcycle disciples. There are meat and potato disciples; vegetarian disciples, lean meat disciples, tuna fish disciples. Then there are religious disciples: Buddhism, Zen, Hindus, Moslems, Christians. There are “relevancy” disciples, “power of the mind” disciples, agnostic disciples, atheist disciples. I boarded an airplane once with a man who wore a tie with elephants and the letters “GOP.” I knew immediately that he was a Republican Party disciple. The list for discipleship is endless. It all depends on your human desire, that passionate flame of desire that leads you to follow your human belief.

Humanity diverges into a “helter-skelter,” ever-changing group of human separation based solely and exclusively on a human desire to follow as a disciple. Humanity splinters into millions of fragments over issues of discipleship.

The thought of human unity is absurd. Especially when you shroud your human desires behind the mask of “good intentioned discipleship.” But, if you could suspend, for just a moment, your self-reliance on human reasoning and logic, a reasoning that leads you to self-rationalization and justification based upon human desire, so that you may peer into the mystery of why you do or do not do the things you do, what truths would you discover about yourself?

Few within humanity ever answer the question: Why do you do the things you do? Most have found it easier to simply repeat the mantra “I am a human being.” Yet, regardless of how comforting this

human excuse may be, based upon the universal rationalization that all of humanity are human and all human beings desire, the true answer of why we do or do not do the things we do has not penetrated our human consciences. Most of humanity simply assumes our minds have the power to govern our human desires, and when our minds don’t, we chalk it up to a weakness in human will-power. We use the tired-worn excuses, “I can’t help myself, I’m too weak to resist, I’m only flesh and blood, my mind is willing but my flesh is weak.” Are these statements familiar to you?

Do you believe your mind has the absolute power to govern your human desires? If you state your belief as “Yes,” then you, like most of humanity, embrace an illusion. The hard, concrete facts of human behavior state the simple truth that your desires govern your mind’s thoughts, words, and actions.

Yes, if human desires behind the cover of our rational and logical minds, but our human reality is fueled by our human desires. The universal truth of humanity is that we are governed by human desire rather than human reasoning. We spin our tales of human rationalization and justification upon the heels of human desire, because so few of us are ever willing to admit that our human reasoning and judgment are “flawed” by human desire.

It would mean the destruction of our human props to a pseudo-civilized humanity based upon the ideal of rational thought. It is futile as long as we are governed and driven by human desire. It would mean bursting the bubble of your “God-like all powerful brain” willing its power upon your human desires to control them.

The cost of discipleship of the mind is paid by humanity’s endless circle of human desire leading to pain and suffering, violence and destruction. You define and confine your humanity to riding the “merry-go-round” of human desire by never admitting your mind is powerless to stop your human desires.

Your mind can think of a thousand ways to control your human desires, but your desires always break free from the chains of your mind’s rational control. Your life is consumed by controlling, managing, and regulating your human desires in fear of the consequences of your desires. You are forever fixing and repairing the destruction caused by your desires.

You find yourself imprisoned by the illusion that your mind, your will, has the power to conquer and control your desires. You never want to admit that your humanity is “flawed” and “corrupted” by human desire. As a devout disciple of the mind, you would never admit that your soul, the essence of your existence, is the true governor of your human desires.

But if life has taught you anything, then at least life has taught you to never close the door on any possibility, even if it seems absurd.

The question before you is not of the soul’s existence. Most of humanity believes in this. Your illusion is in the mistaken belief that your mind governs your soul by the reason of law, government and religion. The truth is, our minds are not universally “flawed” our souls are universally “flawed” by human desires too powerful for our minds to control. A flawed soul that desires the conditions of human desires.

All I need to do to prove this point is to ask you if you are willing to offer your life in absolute trust to the authority of law, government and religion. Wouldn’t you be the first to state, “No way, no how?” Doesn’t your soul desire freedom from the constraints of law, government and religion? Yet, your mind reasons the chaos and destruction caused by an ungoverned humanity being led by human desire. Who among us is willing to say, “I want my freedom to be constrained by more laws, more government, more religion that binds me to slavery?” Where does humanity draw the line between freedom and constraint of freedom forged by the desire of the soul? The desire of one soul leads to more freedom, while another soul’s desire leads to more constraint

of freedom. Oh, the variables of soulish desire are endless as the conditions of desire are endless by the soul! Humanity is choking on the soul's desires demanding, "Right or wrong, righteous or unrighteous, innocence or guilt." Humanity rejects the truth that "flawed" souls lead to "flawed law, government and religion."

Why is it too irrational to embrace the truth of a "fallen" humanity, unable to free itself from the desires of the soul? A "fallen" humanity that proves us as "wrong, unrighteous, and guilty" through our soul's governance. A "fallen" humanity who reasons for freedom, but ends up in slavery by their reasoning!

If you seek to answer the riddle of humanity, then you will not discover the answer within yourself. Your soul, flawed by desire, will not allow you to embrace the truth of your "apocalyptic present", that is leading you to death instead of life. Where do you discover the truth about your soul that is leading you to death? Is there is Way, a Truth, a Life that leads to life instead of death?

Yes, there is an answer, but your soul does not desire to accept the answer. You would prefer the reasonable, logical answer of repairing the cracks caused by pain and suffering, violence and destruction by your mind's reasoning of governing the soul. Hasn't your mind become overpowered by humanity's endless spiral downward to destruction and death? What humanity tries to fix continues to remain broken. Human civilization grows worse instead of better. Tell me, disciples of mind, who are really disciples of the soul, how do you think your way out of destruction and death? Humanity is giving up to hopelessness while you're thinking. How do you release humanity from the soul's desires that lead to death?

Do not try to fool me with your human wisdom, your rationale and justification, your reasonable and logical human answers that lead only to hypocrisy. The awful truth of humanity's enslavement to desires too powerful to govern by the human mind are

chewing up humanity faster that you can think your way out of it. All of humanity's thoughts, words and actions, generated by the soul's pride and prejudice are leading humanity toward death.

I know of only one human being who acknowledged humanity's slavery to the soul and proclaimed humanity's powerlessness against it - Jesus Christ. He proclaimed a power beyond himself, to break his soul and transform his life from death to life.

Jesus Christ stood in the midst of humanity, pointing to a Divine authority, greater than any human authority, to release humanity from the bondage of the soul. His Way, Truth, and Life was so revolutionary that most of humanity has yet to catch up to the revolution.

Even the majority of His disciples who claim to follow Him have yet to understand the Divine Truth of His life. They, like the rest of humanity, seek the way the truth, the life of their souls instead of accepting the Divine power to release them from their soul's bondage.

The question of "Who is Jesus Christ?" is his answer to "Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me." His way leads to life. Your way leads to death. The cost of discipleship is life or death.

The Rev. Ronald E. White



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