

# "CREATED FOR ETERNITY

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## GOD CREATED HUMANKIND TO LIVE FOREVER.

**Ecd. 3:11** *God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.* (NLT)

### 1. An Eternal God Created Humanity for His Own Glory.

**Isa. 43:7** *"Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them."* (NLT)

### 2. God Created Man in His Own Image.

**Gen. 1:27** *So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.* (NRSV)

### 3. God Created Man to Rule the Earth Forever.

**Gen. 1:28** *Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."* (NLT)

**Rev. 22:5** *And they will rule as kings forever and ever.* (NCV)

## HOW GOD CREATED MAN

**Gen. 2:7** *The LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.* (NRSV)

1. God formed man's body from the earth.
2. God breathe into man the "breath of life."
3. Man became a living being.

## THEORIES ABOUT THE NATURE OF MAN

### 1. Trichotomy - Man has three elements

**1 Thes. 5:23** *May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (NRSV)

- a. **Body** (physical part) - designed to facilitate and act out in the physical realm the dictates of the spirit or the soul.
- b. **Soul** (immaterial part - Gr. *psyche*, Heb. *nephesh*) - designed to exercise the power to choose to love and serve God (composed of mind, emotion and the will, with the will having primacy) by being subject to the spirit.
- c. **Spirit** (higher faculty - Gr. *pneuma*, Heb. *ruach*) - designed to connect to God to receive His wisdom and life and to rule over the soul and the body.

**1 Cor. 3:1** *And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.* (NRSV)

**1 Cor. 2:14** *Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit.* (NRSV)

### 2. Dichotomy - Man has two elements, the body (physical part) and the soul or spirit

(immaterial existence - interchangeable terms in the Scriptures).

**Matt. 10:28** *Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.* (NRSV)

**1 Cor. 7:34** *... so that they may be holy in body and spirit ...* (NRSV)

### 3. Monism - Man's body is the person and soul and spirit are the person's life.

## The Unity of the Personality of Man

**1. Operating in the Physical World** - The whole person acts in connection with the body.

**2. Relating to Physical and Spiritual Realms** - The soul or spirit (interchangeable in the Bible) relates to the spiritual realm while the body relates to the physical realm.

**3. Functioning in the Spiritual Realm** - There is a differentiation of the three levels of the experiential life (fleshly, soulish, spiritual) of the believer.

## The Eternal Consciousness of the Soul or Spirit

### 1. It can function independently of ordinary thought processes.

**1 Cor. 14:14** *For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying.* (NLT)

### 2. It can consciously act and relate to God apart from the body.

**2 Cor. 2:2,4** *I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know - only God knows ... But I do know that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell.* (NLT)

### 3. It continues to be conscious after death.

**Phil. 1:22-24** *If I continue living in my body, I will be able to work for the Lord. I do not know what to choose - living or dying. It is hard to choose between the two. I want to leave this life and be with Christ, which is much better, but you need me here in my body.* (NCV)

**Acts 7:59** *As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."* (NLT)

**Luke 23:43** *And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."* (NLT)

**Luke 23:46** *And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last.* (NASB)

## Views About The Soul

**Creationism** - God creates a new soul for each person and sends it to that person's body sometime between conception and birth (held by the Catholic church and Calvin).

**Traducianism** - The soul as well as the body of the child are inherited from the baby's parents at the time of conception (favored by Lutherans and modern Calvinists).

**Pre-existentialism** - The souls exist in heaven long before their bodies are conceived. God brings the soul to earth to be joined with the baby's body in the womb.

## MAN'S ULTIMATE DESTINATION WILL EXIST FOR ETERNITY.

**Matt. 25:46** *"And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."* (NLT)

1. Heaven - Eternal Life
2. Hell - Eternal Punishment