

# Heart Series

## Part 1

### Getting to the Heart of the Problem

#### I. Kingdom Alignment

##### A. What's Wrong with My "Ride"?

1. Imagine. You're driving down the highway. At certain speeds, you notice a vibration in the steering wheel. Whoa! Something's wrong here. But it's not too bad, so you keep on driving. A few months go by. Then one day you notice your tire treads look weird. One side of the tread has grooves and the other side is worn out smooth. How many of you have driven long enough to know what the trouble is? Your car is out of alignment! You need a "front-end alignment".

*\*I spent my high school summers working for my father who was the manager of a Firestone store in Freeport, Texas. I worked in the service department where I changed tires, balanced wheels and fixed flats. Even though I never did front-end alignments, I learned quickly how important it was to the car.*

*You can ruin an expensive set of tires if your alignment is off!*

2. The truth is that if your front end is out of alignment, you can wash your car, wax it, and change the oil, but you still won't like your ride.

3. Life is like that. If your "front-end" is out of alignment, you can get a new hairstyle, buy a new dress, read a book or go to a movie...but you still won't like the way you're going down the highway of life.

##### B. Enter Religion

1. Here's where people try religion, because when the vibrations get so bad you can't keep your car on the road, you start to look for help outside yourself.

2. The trouble with that is that so much "religion" doesn't get to the root of the problem. Joining a church, getting baptized, even reading the Bible really only amount to washing your car or changing the oil.

3. The problem is that a lot of religion, even what passes for Christian religion, doesn't get to the heart of the problem.

##### C. How to Align Your Life to the Kingdom of God

1. For the next four weeks, I want to talk to you about the "heart" of the problem.

2. We're going to see what God says about us, how we're put together...because most of us don't know where the "front-end" is!

3. If the "front-end" is right, the drive is right...but where's our "front-end"?

## II. The Tri-Partate Man

### A. Made in the Image of God (Genesis 1:26-28)

1. God is “triune”-one God in three persons.
2. We are made in His “image and likeness”-we are one person in three parts, or three dimensions.

**And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole *spirit* and *soul* and *body* be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
1 Thessalonians 5:23 KJV**

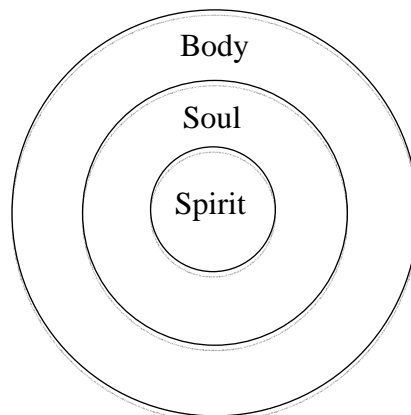
**Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your *whole spirit* and *soul* and *body* be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.  
God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.  
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 in NLT**

3. There are a few people who believe man is just physical, just flesh. Most believe there is more to man than a physical body.
4. Only Christian doctrine teaches that man is tri-partate: spirit, soul and body.
5. It is easy to discern the difference between our physical and non-physical self; but the Bible makes a clear distinction between our *soul* and our *spirit*! How can we know? It’s only by revelation!

### B. The Sword of the Word

**For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, *cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow*. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and *He* is the one to whom we are accountable.  
Heb 4:12-13 NLT**

1. Only the Word of God can show you the difference between your soul and your spirit.
2. Why is this important? Because you are created to run a certain way. If you’re out of alignment, your life is going to vibrate and your tires are going to wear out! You’ve got to know where your “front-end” is!
3. You can waste a lifetime working on the wrong part of you!
4. The Bible is the “Manufacturer’s Handbook”. It says you are made like this:



- The “heart” of me, the very core of my life, is my “spirit.”
- I relate to the world with my body, to my “self” with my soul, to God with my spirit.
- My soul consists of my will, my mind and my emotions. I feel pain with my body; but when you hurt my feelings, you’re hurting my soul.
- It’s the spirit-man, not the soul-man, who is designed to direct my life!

**One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"**

**Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, 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.*'**

**Excerpt from Mark 12:28-30 NLT**

5. Some religion is only “body-deep”; some is only “soul-deep”; but the Gospel is a “front-end alignment” of the whole man and *it begins in the heart!!!*