

# Wholehearted discipleship

Mark 12:28-34

Steve Walton

# A key question v 28

- about the **chief** commandment
- Rabbi Hillel in first century BC challenged by a gentile 'Make me a proselyte on condition that you teach me the whole law while I stand on one foot.' Reply: 'What you hate for yourself, do not do to your neighbour: this is the whole law, the rest is commentary; go and learn.'

# An amazing answer vv 28-31

- Deut 6:4-5 + Lev 19:18
  - Deut 6:4-5 ‘Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.’
  - Lev 19:18 ‘Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the LORD.’

# An amazing answer vv 28-31

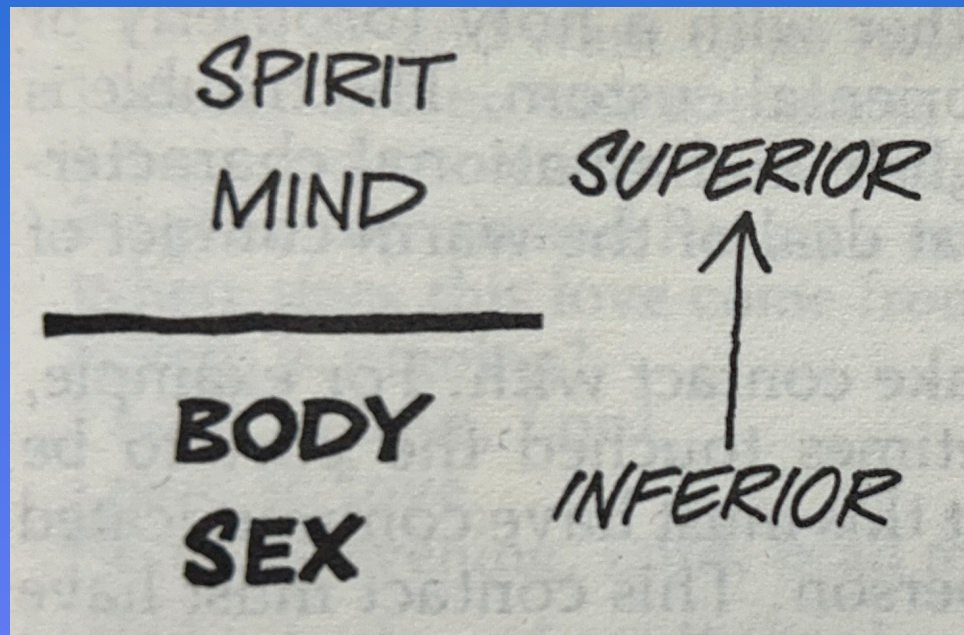
- the Lord is **our** God
  - he loves us first
    - Exodus 20:1-2: 'And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."'"
    - I John 4:10: 'This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.'

# An amazing answer vv 28-31

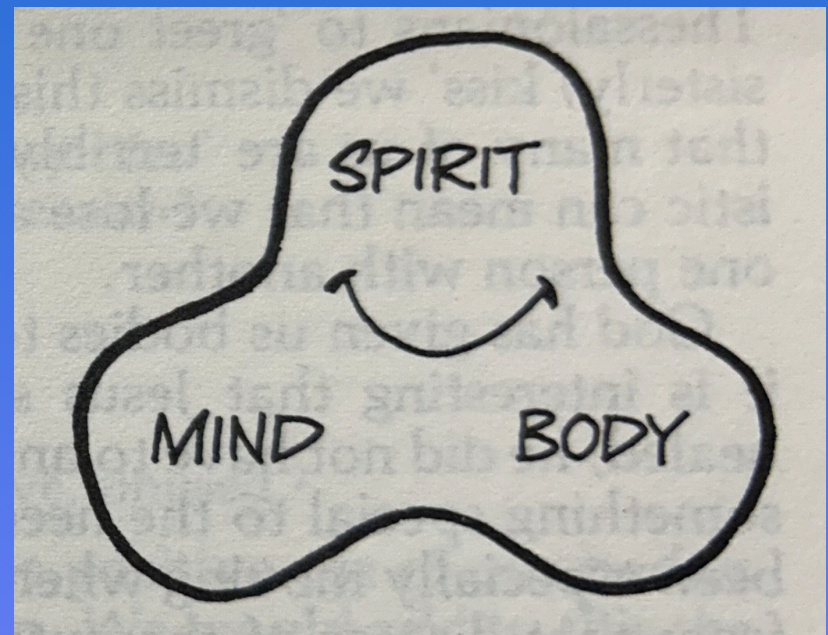
- the Lord is **our** God
- the Lord is **the one true** God
  - the way to God is through his son
  - John 14:6: ‘Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”’

# The Lord deserves our total response of love

- a biblical view of humanity



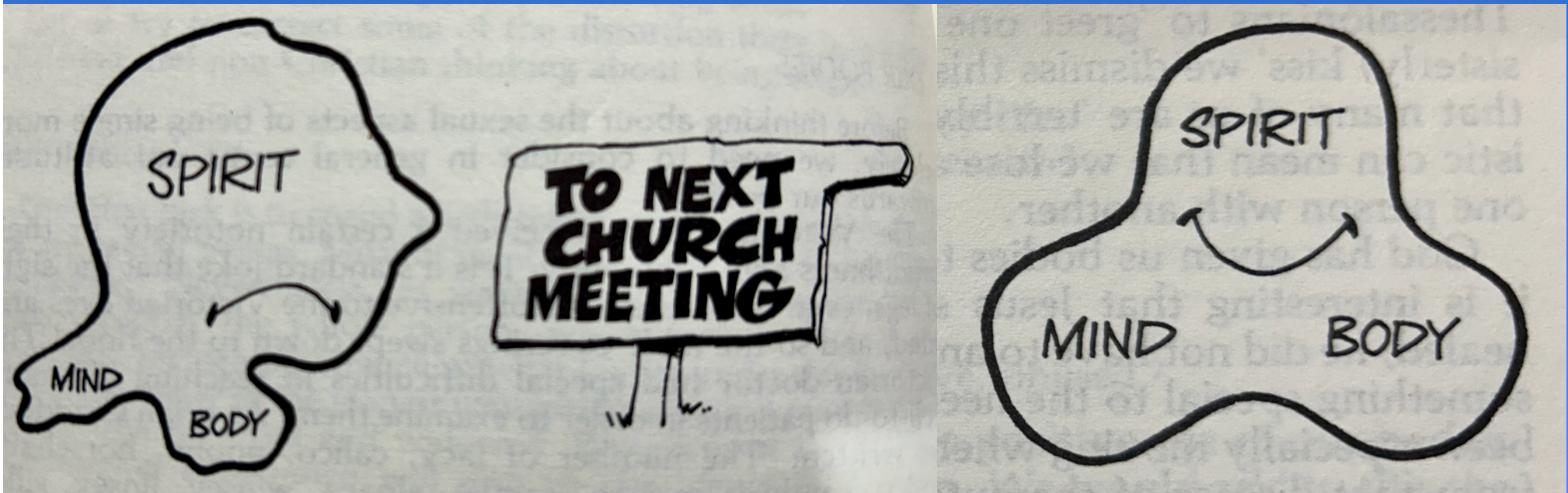
Greek view



Biblical view

# The Lord deserves our total response of love

- a biblical view of humanity



A Christian gone Greek

Biblical view

# The Lord deserves our total response of love

- loving God with all your heart
  - ‘Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said. Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go”...But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh’s heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.’ Exodus 7:13, 14, 22



# The Lord deserves our total response of love

- loving God with all your heart
  - “So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?” The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.” 1 Kings 3:9, 12

# The Lord deserves our total response of love

- loving God with all your heart
- readiness to go God's way: correctable
- 1 Timothy 4:15: 'Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, **so that everyone may see your progress.**'

# The Lord deserves our total response of love

- loving God with all your soul
  - I **am** a soul, not I **have** a soul
    - Genesis 2:7 AV 'man became **a living soul**'
  - love for God as a total response

# The Lord deserves our total response of love

- loving God with all your mind
  - Jesus adds 'mind' to Deut 6:5
  - teachable
  - putting what God says first
  - 'He [sc the serpent] said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, *and you must not touch it, or you will die.*" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and *you will be like God*, knowing good and evil.'" Gen 3:1-4

# The Lord deserves our total response of love

- loving God with all your mind
  - Jesus adds 'mind' to Deut 6:5
  - teachable
  - putting what God says first
  - using the mind Christianly

# The Lord deserves our total response of love

- loving God with all your strength
  - ready to become tired for Christ
  - cost to Christian living and service
  - ‘But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. **I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.**”  
So David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them.’  
2 Sam 24:24

# Love as a matter of the will

- love as obedience to God
  - ‘This is love for God: to obey his commands.’  
1 John 5:3
- love as given to others
  - ‘Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.’ 1 John 4:11
- love as God’s command and promise
  - You **shall** love...’ Mark 12:30
  - ‘...God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.’ Romans 5:5

# Jesus' further response

- 'not far from the kingdom' Mark 12:34
- knowing is not the same as experiencing



# For reflection and discussion

- How am I making space and time to know God's love for me in Jesus?
  - What would help me grow in this?
- How am I making space and time to grow in wholehearted love for God?
  - What would help me grow in this?

You can get these slides from:

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<http://steve walton.info>