

# **SYLLABUS: WHOLE AND HOLY – EXPLORING THE HUMAN PERSON IN BIBLICAL THEOLOGY**

*A 6-Week Bible Study Series*

## **Purpose:**

To explore what it means to be human according to Scripture, examining the nature of body, soul, and spirit through the lens of biblical anthropology and theological reflection. This study engages key views (trichotomy, dichotomy, and naturalism), while grounding identity in the *imago Dei*—the image of God—both as ontology and vocation.

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## **Week 1: What Are We? – Body, Soul, and Spirit in Scripture**

**Key Texts:** Genesis 2:7, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Hebrews 4:12

**Focus:** Overview of trichotomy, dichotomy, and naturalism in light of biblical language

**Concepts:** *Nephesh*, *Ruach*, *Psyche*, *Pneuma*, Biblical anthropology

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## **Week 2: Trichotomy and the Image of God**

**Key Texts:** Genesis 1:26–27, Colossians 1:15, 1 Corinthians 15:44

**Focus:** The human spirit, soul, and body in relation to Christ and the *imago Dei*

**Concepts:** Ontology and function, spiritual capacity, resurrection identity

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## **Week 3: Living in the Image – Purpose and Vocation**

**Key Texts:** Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 4:24

**Focus:** Reflecting God’s character and fulfilling His purpose as image-bearers

**Concepts:** Stewardship, moral agency, identity, dignity, creativity

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## **Week 4: The Soul in Scripture and Discipleship**

**Key Texts:** Matthew 10:28, Luke 1:46–47, Romans 12:1–2

**Focus:** The soul’s role in reasoning, emotion, will, and sanctification

**Concepts:** Transformation, renewal, mental health and theology

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## **Week 5: Spirit and Communion with God**

**Key Texts:** Romans 8:16, John 4:24, Ecclesiastes 12:7

**Focus:** The spirit's role in worship, divine communion, and eternal destiny

**Concepts:** Spiritual birth, regeneration, prayer, discernment

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## **Week 6: Challenges from Naturalism and the Path to Wholeness**

**Key Texts:** Colossians 1:17, Acts 17:28, Psalm 139:13–16

**Focus:** Responding to naturalism, materialism, and secular anthropology

**Concepts:** Human worth, consciousness, philosophical zombies, trinitarian anthropology

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### **Each session includes:**

- Scriptural exploration and theological reflection
- Discussion questions and group engagement
- Weekly devotional or prayer focus
- Definitions of key Hebrew and Greek terms
- Application to identity, spiritual formation, and cultural engagement