



Group Session 3 Understanding Ourselves

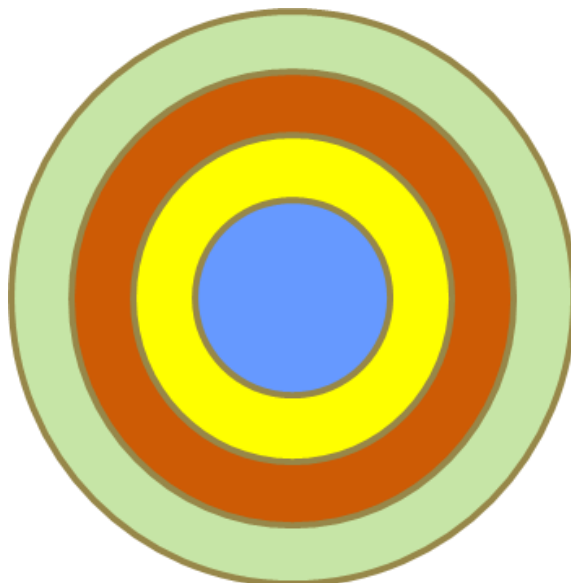
Personality in Conflict

Read Luke 22:31-34, 54-62

1. What do you think is going on inside Peter? Why does he say one minute that he is prepared to go to prison and even to death, but the next minute deny that he even knew Jesus? Was Peter lying? Was he a coward?

2. Have you ever found yourself doing something that you had previously resolved not to do?

The Five Dimensions of the Human self



3. Do you believe in “free will”? Do we really have the capacity to make totally free choices?

4. Willard argues that nothing that is essential to human life falls outside these five dimensions. Do you agree?

5. Read through the following passage which is taken from Romans 7, and highlight or underline those words which concern Paul’s **will** in one colour, and those which talk about his **soul** in another colour.

¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Recommended Reading

Dallas Willard “Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ” Inter-Varsity Press, 2002. Especially chapter 3 “The heart in the system of human life”.