

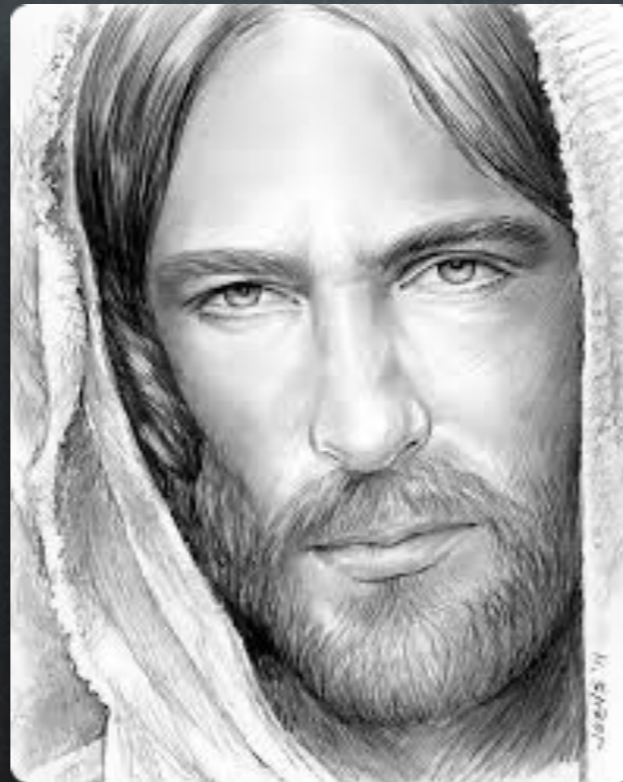
## The Genius of Jesus

WELCOME to the final session of our four session  
course sponsored by  
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



*What Does it Mean to Be Human?*  
Session 2, Part 2

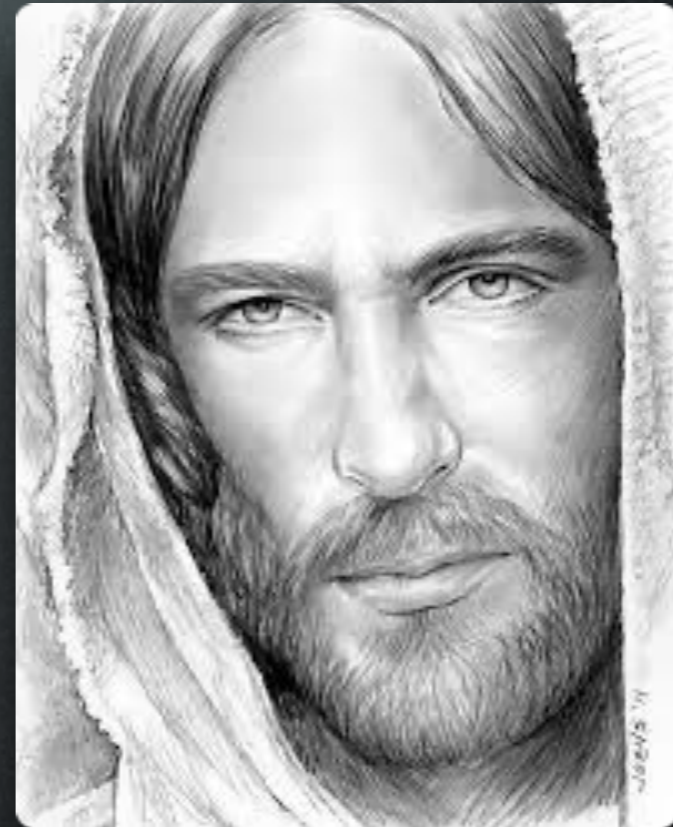
Dallas Willard at Ohio State University  
November 15, 2002



The Genius

## Session 3 REVIEW

We humans have a nature that determines our excellence and well being. Our desires have to be restrained by the capacity to apprehend reality through experience and reason to set the limits to our nature's desire. Sadly, the moral knowledge of "good human nature" has disappeared.



The Genius

## “4M IQ” – Life’s Four Most Important Questions

Q1 - What is reality?

A - The Kingdom of God.

“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

Q2 - Who is well off - living the good life?

A - Living in the direct availability of the Kingdom of God.

“Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Q3 - Who is a good person?

A - One permeated with agape love.

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Q4 - How do I become a good person?

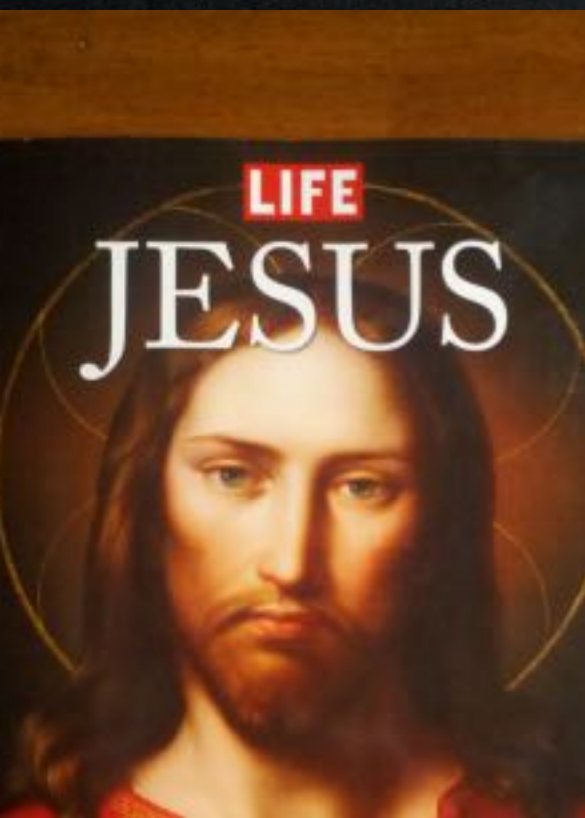
A - Become an apprentice of Jesus.

“Everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man...”

*The Genius Jesus*  
teaching what it means to be human!

“Love God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength  
and love your neighbor as yourself.”

Mark 12:30-31



# The Genius of Jesus

*Session 4 — “What does it mean to be Human?” (part 2)*

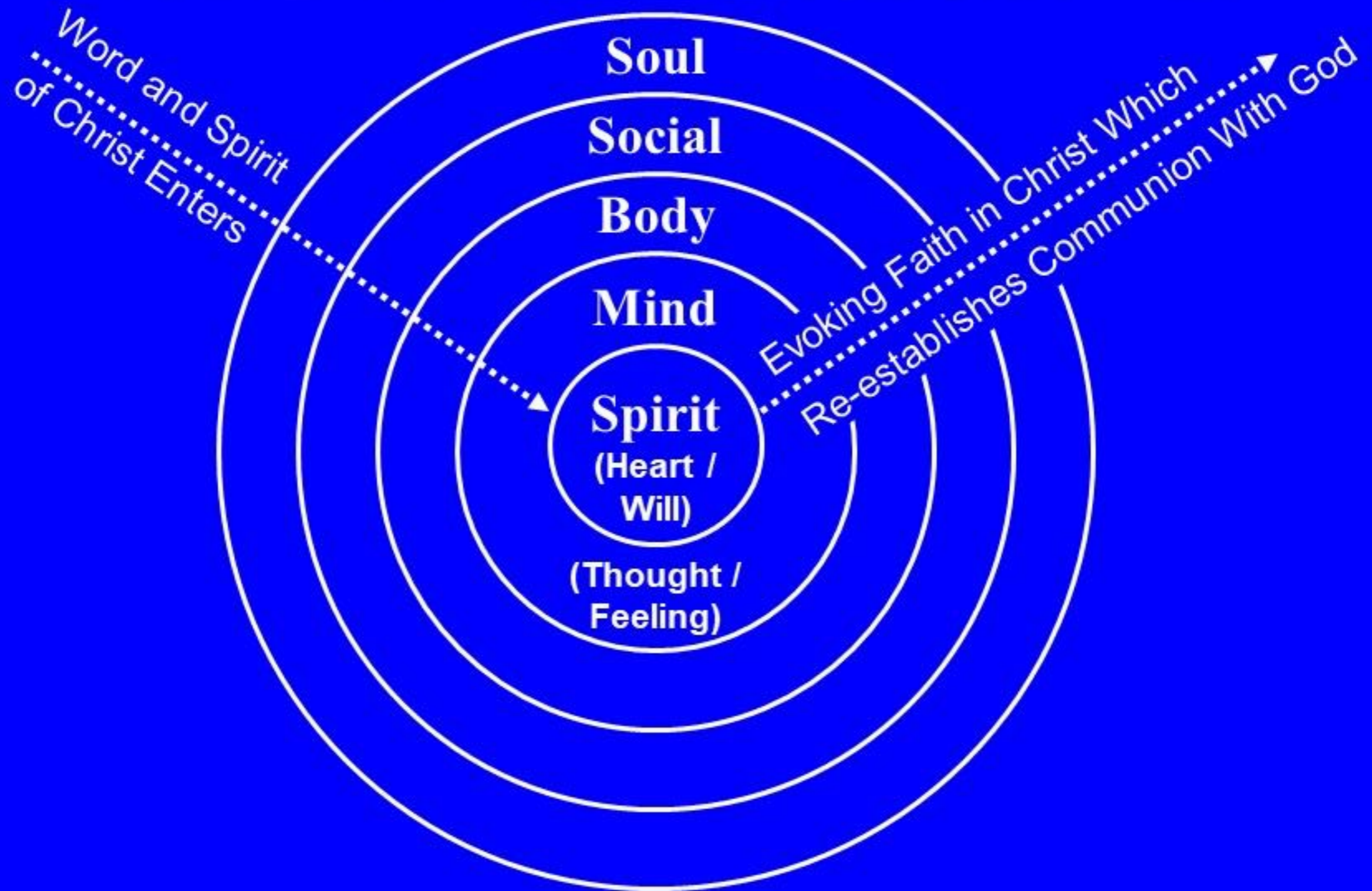
**The Purpose of Human Life** (restated)

Our Calling...Our Nature

To KNOW and to LOVE

and to be KNOWN and to be LOVED.

# Our Basic Theme: Bringing Christ into All Dimensions of Our Life



# The Order Proper to the Human Being

Remember what I said:

“A nature is parts with properties that relate to one another in terms of those properties and produce a whole which is capable of relationships beyond the self.”

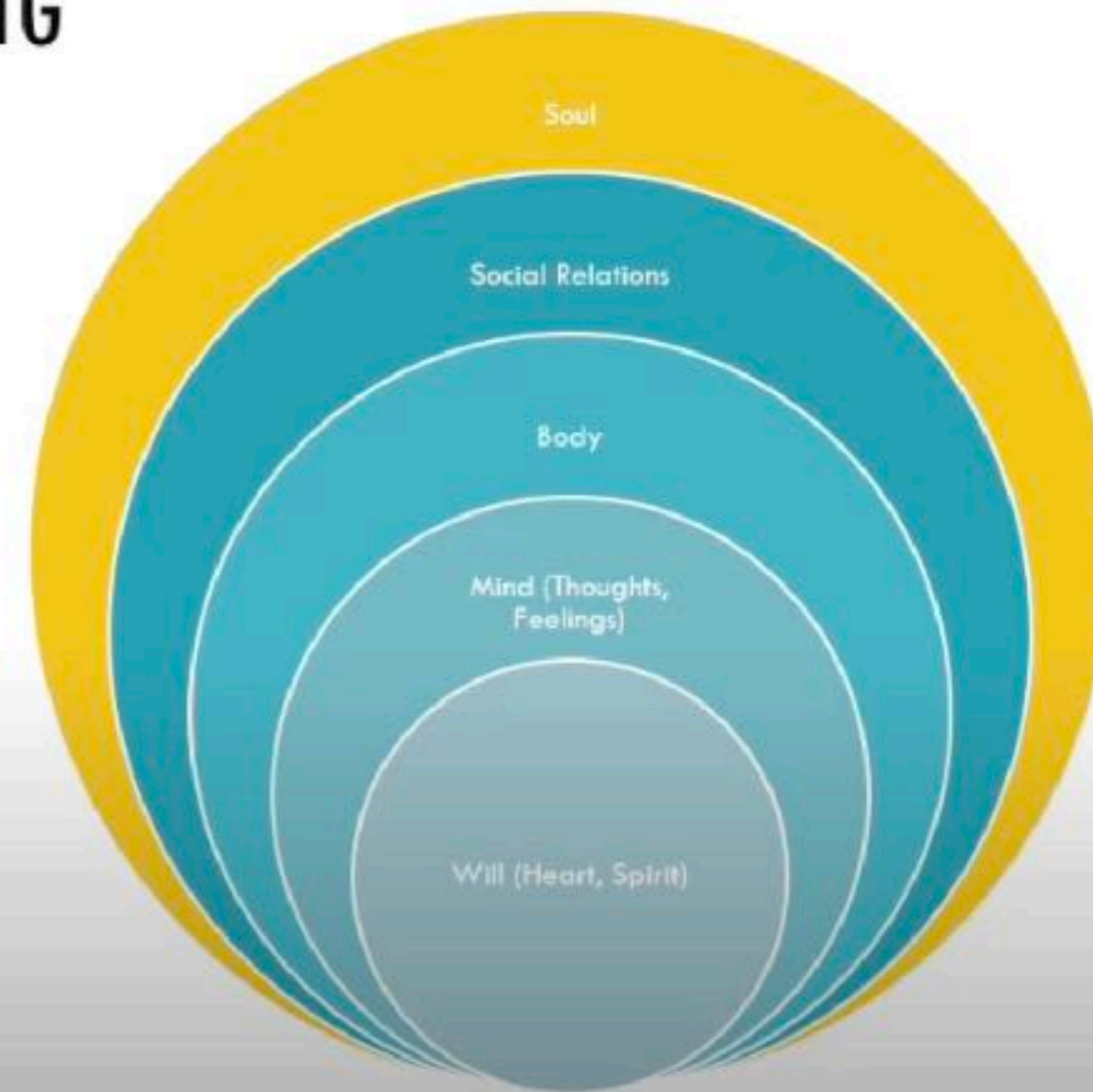




# THE ESSENTIAL PARTS OF A HUMAN BEING

As per Jesus: Luke 10:27 and Matthew 27:37-39

- Will / Heart / Spirit: The capacity to make decisions.
- Mind: Thoughts, Feelings
- Body: Your power pack for life.
- Social Relations: No one stands alone.
- Soul: The part of the person that puts all the other parts together (if it's not broken) and makes one life.



# The Order Proper to the Human Being

The WILL is subordinated to God.

Then the MIND is subordinated to the SPIRIT [WILL] under God.

- Order comes into the MIND.
- FEELINGS are coherent with thinking.
- Restoration through the BODY and through
- SOCIAL relationships



## **The Order Proper to the Human Being** (continued)

MIND subordinate to SPIRIT under God.

SOUL to MIND under God.

BODY to SOUL under God.

SOCIAL harmonized with the BODY under God.



# PROPER ORDER TO HUMAN BEINGS

Subordinated to God



- The restoration begins to move through the body and through the social relationships.
- This is a picture of human nature functioning well.
- Out of this comes the norms that can guide us practically.



A little girl in Sunday School is asked,

*“What is a lie?”*

*“An abomination to God...*

*and a very present help in time of trouble.”*



Dallas Willard's 2-part series, "The Genius of Jesus"

What Does it Mean to Be Human, part 2

"Kingdom Living" [11:35 - 13:15]



*“Love God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength  
and love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Mark 12:30-31

## **Kingdom Living**

—> The Great Commandment <—> Basic knowledge of how to live well and be a good person.

—> Answers Two of Life's Greatest Questions:

Q#2 - Who is well off?    Q#3 - Who is a good person?

Once you understand the nature of a human being, you can see why that is true. There are no realistic alternatives to that. We have set this aside as knowledge but we have not replaced it with a better view.

# **The Role of Spiritual Disciplines**

## **What is a Discipline?**

An activity in my power that enables me to do what I can not do by direct effort.

## **What is a Spiritual Discipline?**

An activity in collaboration with God's grace that enables me to accomplish what I can not do on my own.

*I practice spiritual disciplines because of my deep love for Jesus and who I am in Jesus!*



1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,  
...SET your hearts on things above, where Christ is,  
seated at the right hand of God.

2 SET your minds on things above, not on earthly  
things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with  
Christ in God.

5 PUT to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your  
earthly nature...

8 RID yourselves of all such things as:...

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly  
loved, CLOTHE yourselves with...

Colossians 3

# Spiritual Disciplines

Not will alone...not human strength, but by the grace of God as the life of God gives us inward transformation.

Spiritual disciplines are not designed to remedy behavior, they are designed to transform the inner person.

We don't want to become people who do the right thing. We want to become the kind of person who does the right thing, routinely and easily.

The Secret - Indirection!

## Δ3 **Disciplines of Disengagement** (Retreat)

solitude, silence, fasting, frugality,  
chastity, secrecy, sacrifice, watching

## Δ3 **Disciplines of Engagement** (Advance)

prayer, study, meditation, memorization, worship,  
celebration, service, fellowship, confession, submission,  
simplicity, obedience, generosity, giving, guidance, pilgrimage

Moral life must be based on knowledge...not good feeling or political action. The human self is meant to act in terms of what it believes. Understanding human nature is what enables us to know when it is excellent in its character, what is good for it. To establish norms for its guidance, it must be based on knowledge.

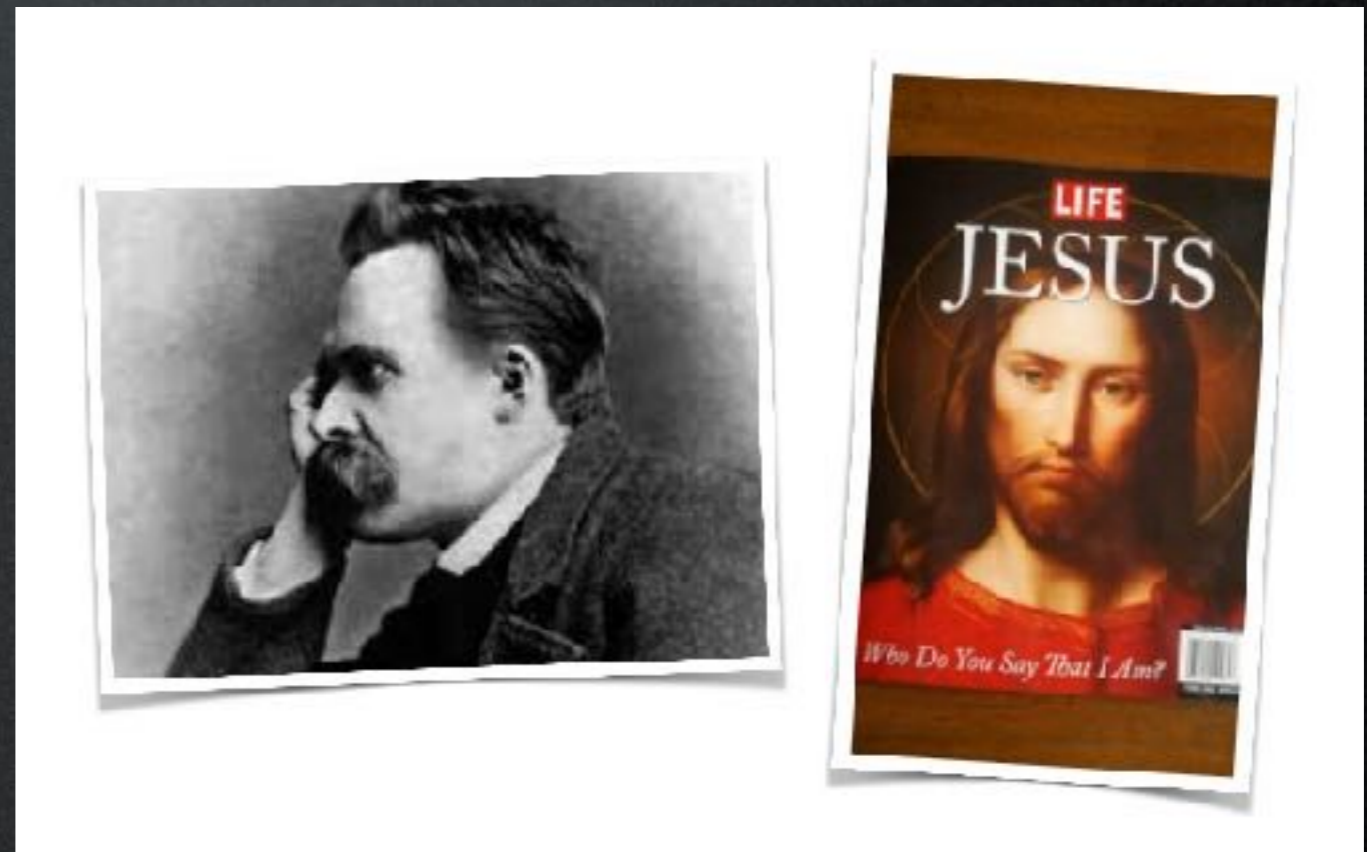
If you believe human nature does not exist, you will have no norms to guide your life.



**Friedrich Nietzsche** understood if you take the Christian foundations out from a culture, it will collapse. That's what he was so excited about. He was incapable of giving an alternative.

I'm saying there are no alternatives. It's in the nature of human nature that there should not be any alternatives. [Nietzsche] saw what was happening and he realized that it was a complete disaster.

2-session course  
"Nietzsche vs. Jesus"  
[JesusCollege.com](http://JesusCollege.com)





## **Revelation is the Source for Knowledge**

The Bible - the best information on the most important topics.

- We who believe this are to present the way of Christ as knowledge and reality, and as a picture of human nature.
- We make the assemblies of Christians the guiding light of humanity.
- We lead our lives so that people will realize there is something better in life than they had ever dreamed.

“Ethics is certainly the study of **how life may be full and rich**, not as often imagined how it may be restrained and meager.

Those words of Jesus, announcing that He had come in order that **men might have life** and have it abundantly, are the clearest statement of the **purposes of both morality and religion**, of righteousness on Earth and in Heaven.”

George Palmer, Harvard Professor, 1899



# Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!



*Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen*

80:00 + 10K

**Meditation** — *Joshua 1:8; Matthew 6:33*

## **Application**

Q1 — How whole is my whole person?

Which area needs attention right now?

Q2 — Which spiritual discipline(s) will direct His grace to this area?

Q3 — What Bible prayer or text guides me to seek God's power to order my life?

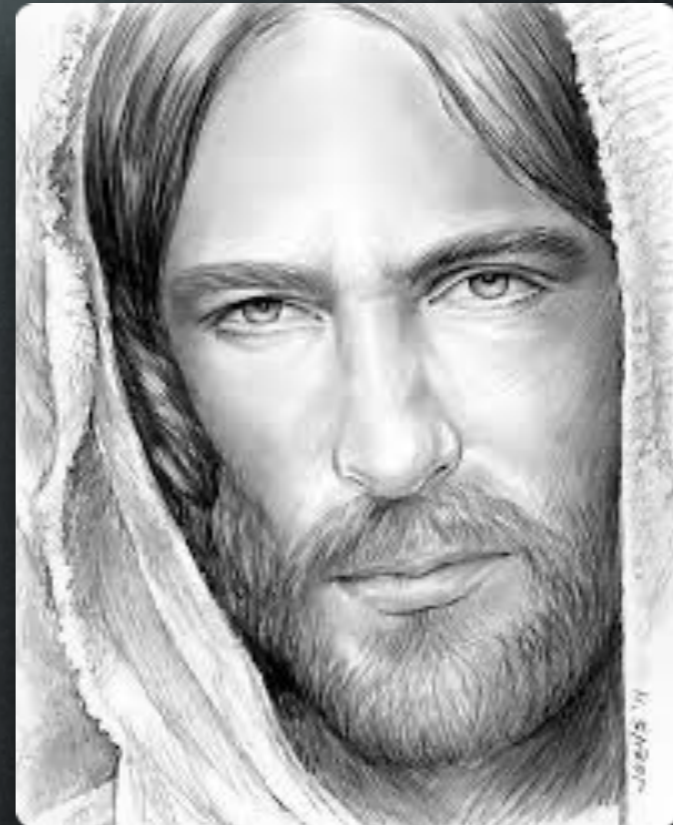


† Cross Fit



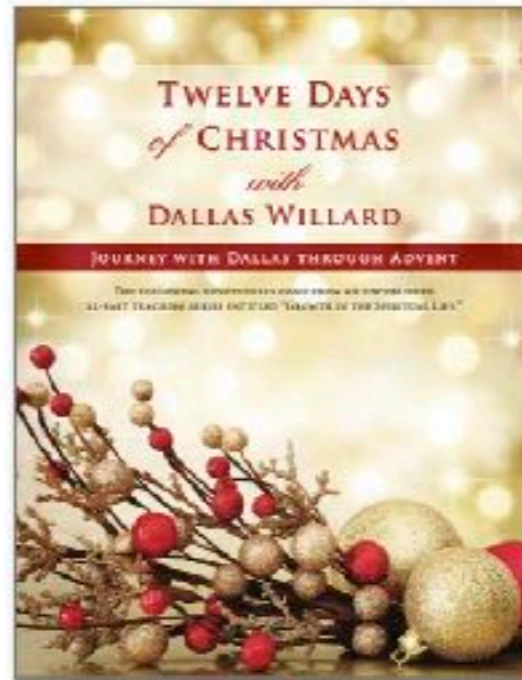
## Session 4 Summary

Our divinely designed and regenerated human nature is optimized under God as a whole person existing to love and serve with knowledge of reality found in the Genius Jesus, taught by the Word of God, and lived out by students of the Genius as a guiding light for all humanity.



The Genius

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A good school

# **A CELEBRATION of COMPLETION**

Yahwehallelujah!

From Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College  
to the Apprentices who completed the Course:

“The Genius of Jesus”



# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

*This Certifies that*

*Socrates*

*Has diligently and devotedly completed in November, 2024, the Course*

**“THE GENIUS OF JESUS”**

Doug Webster

DOUG WEBSTER



JESUS COLLEGE

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Rebecca Willard Heatley

REBECCA WILLARD HEATLEY



DALLAS WILLARD  
MINISTRIES

*Living in the kingdom now*

Learn a good life from  
the Genius as you  
walk with Him all the  
days of your eternal,  
unceasing life.

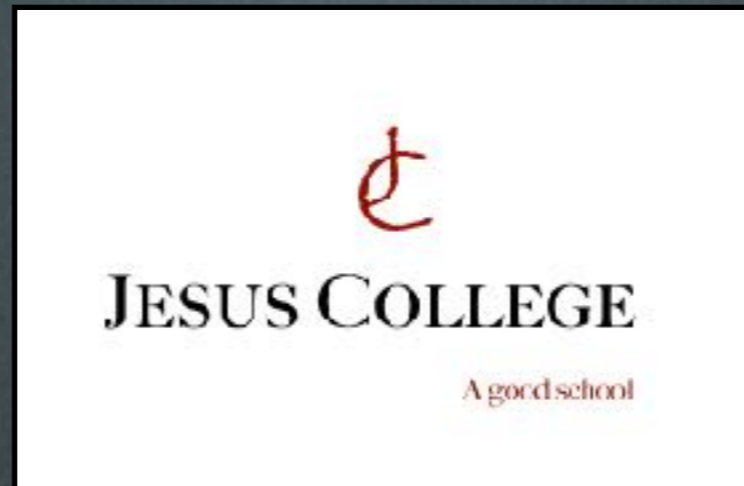
*Doug*



# The SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING



Information...Registration — [JohnC@dwillard.org](mailto:JohnC@dwillard.org)



Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns  
*“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”*

Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs  
*“Training to be proficient in willing the good”*

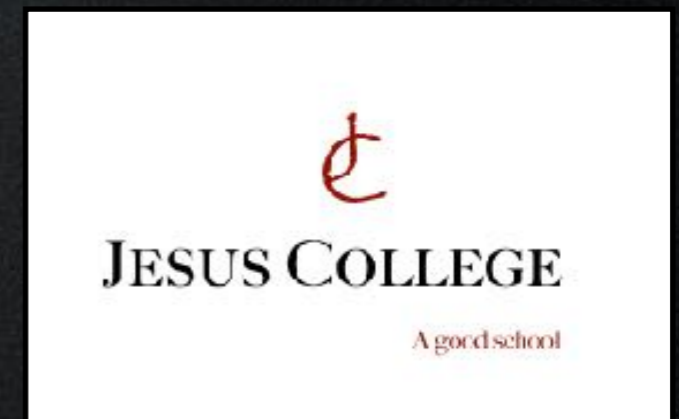
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