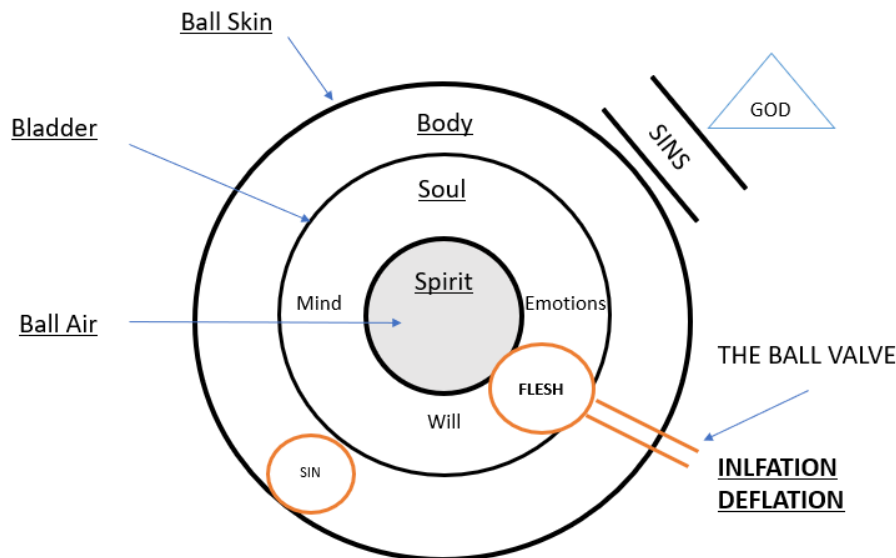




FC GRACE – CORE MESSAGE

We are Three Parts



A soccer ball is made in three parts: outer skin or shell, the bladder, and air. Without each component operating as designed, the ball is not usable. Like a ball, we were designed and created into three parts; body (physical), soul (mind, will and emotions) and the spirit. Likewise, without all three components working as designed, we are not useable for God in his Kingdom. As a result of sin, our minds have a distorted view of God, ourselves, and others. Our emotions may reflect our negative-flesh state of mind resulting in anxiety, sense of worthlessness, insignificance, unacceptable, hopeless, helpless, and failure. Alternatively, our emotions may reflect a positive-flesh state of self-strength, self-confidence, competency, success, and security. Our will, the decision maker in us, chooses to depend on the flesh, so our decision-making abilities are also corrupted. Our mind, the processor in us, sees the world with a corrupted lens. And our emotions, the “feeler” in us views the world only from the selfish perspective. Regardless of positive or negative flesh, the result is life in constant stress, conflict, and frustration.

Flesh may be defined as the condition in which we operate out of our own resources. Doing things in our own way, outside the influence of God. We operate out of our sinful nature, instead of the indwelling spirit of God, to meet our needs for security, love, and affirmation. The flesh attempts to develop a self-identity or self-image which is not centered on our identity in Christ.



The ball valve represents how and where we inflate and deflate ourselves. The flesh, in its attempt to create a self-image, relies on external things of this world to inflate and deflate us; to make one feel accepted, to control one's pain, to manipulate others to feel good, and self-abuse including sex, drugs, alcohol and many other addictions.

Sin is a thing that resides in every person. Sin is a thing, and it is also an act. Sin is the open door through which Satan feeds the lies of this world to us. Because we sin, God is separated from us. The combination of sin and flesh locks us into a self-made prison which we call "living below the line".

Satan is deceiving us by:

1. Lying about the truth about ourselves and God. When you know the truth, you can identify the lies and reject them. Those who are deceived will receive the lies.
2. Lying about the truth of God's character. Our flesh serves only one God. It is either us or Jesus. When we know God's true character, we will make decisions in obedience to God's will. When we are deceived, we will make decision outside the will of God.
3. Leading us to believe that inflation is good, and we must have it now. Satan wants to deceive us about the negative impacts, the deflation. He will tell you "Oh it really won't hurt you".

Jesus is the only one who has the key to unlock us from our prison. He is the only one who can satisfy God's loving desire to see us as his righteousness. There is only one solution, one redeemer, one perfect sacrifice that will satisfy God's law of justice and that is to surrender your life to Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Romans 3:23-24

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus



Romans 8:4-5

By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin,[c] he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit

Romans 7: 15-20

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who does it, but sin that dwells within me.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you that I am fearfully and wonderfully made in your image; that like you are three – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – I have also been made in three parts – body, soul and spirit. Lord, give me open ears to hear this message, an open mind to process this message, and an open heart to consider change. Show me the ways that I have inflated and deflated myself, causing harm to myself and those who love me. Amen.