

SOUL CARE

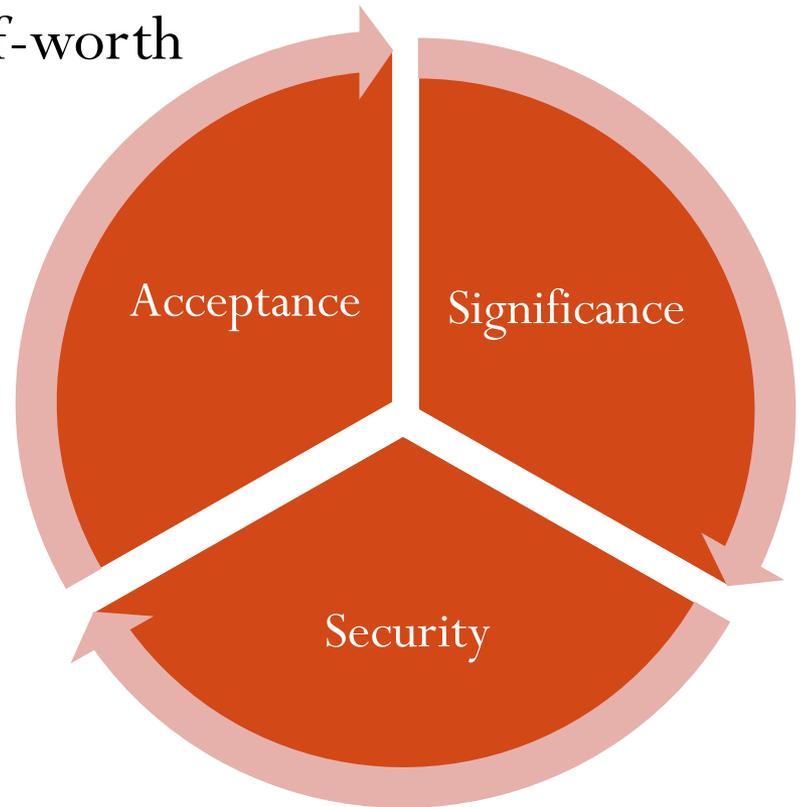
The Anatomy of the Soul

Genesis 1:26 “Let us make man in our image, our likeness...”

- Designed for relationship
- Designed to be an image bearer: God is love
- Designed FOR love and TO love
- Garden Identity: A Soul completely loved by God

What does love look like in the Soul?

- 3-4th Century Desert Fathers: Enneagram motivations
- 16th Century St. Ignatius of Loyola: Inordinate Affections
- SDI 3 ways that people seek self-worth
 - Acceptance
 - Security
 - Significance



Christine Comaford

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“In every communication, in every conflict, we are subconsciously either reinforcing *or begging* for safety, belonging, mattering or a combination.”

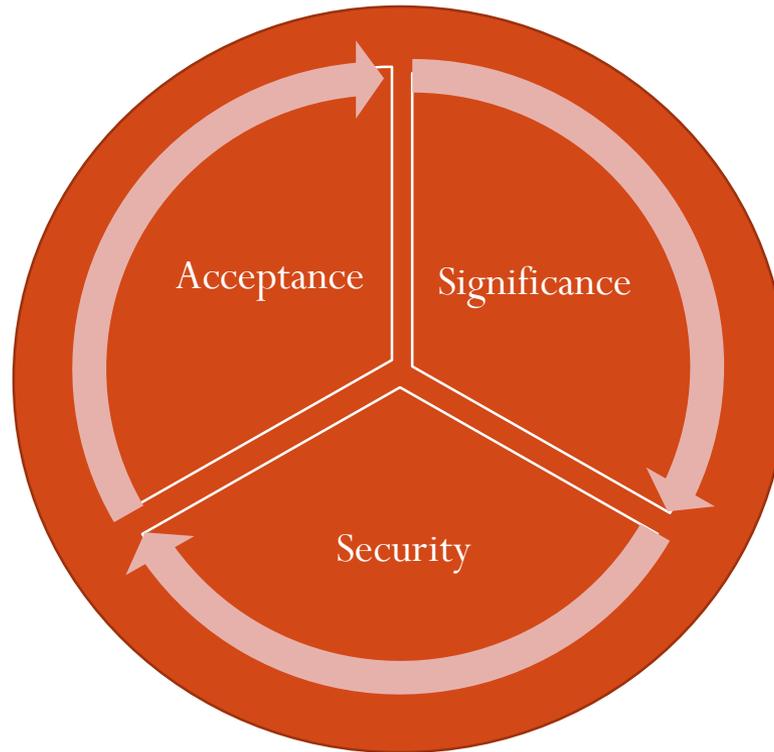
“It’s neurological... it’s primal... there is nothing you can do to override or change this subterranean subconscious programming as much as you may try.”

The Soul and the Fall

- The Soul will seek for love any way it can when it does not know the fullness of the love of God
- Soul apart from the love of God: Shame, guilt, hiding, fear of being exposed
- Striving after love (demanding acceptance, security, and significance from others)

Unregenerate Soul

- Seeks love apart from God
- Has a “hardened shell around the soul

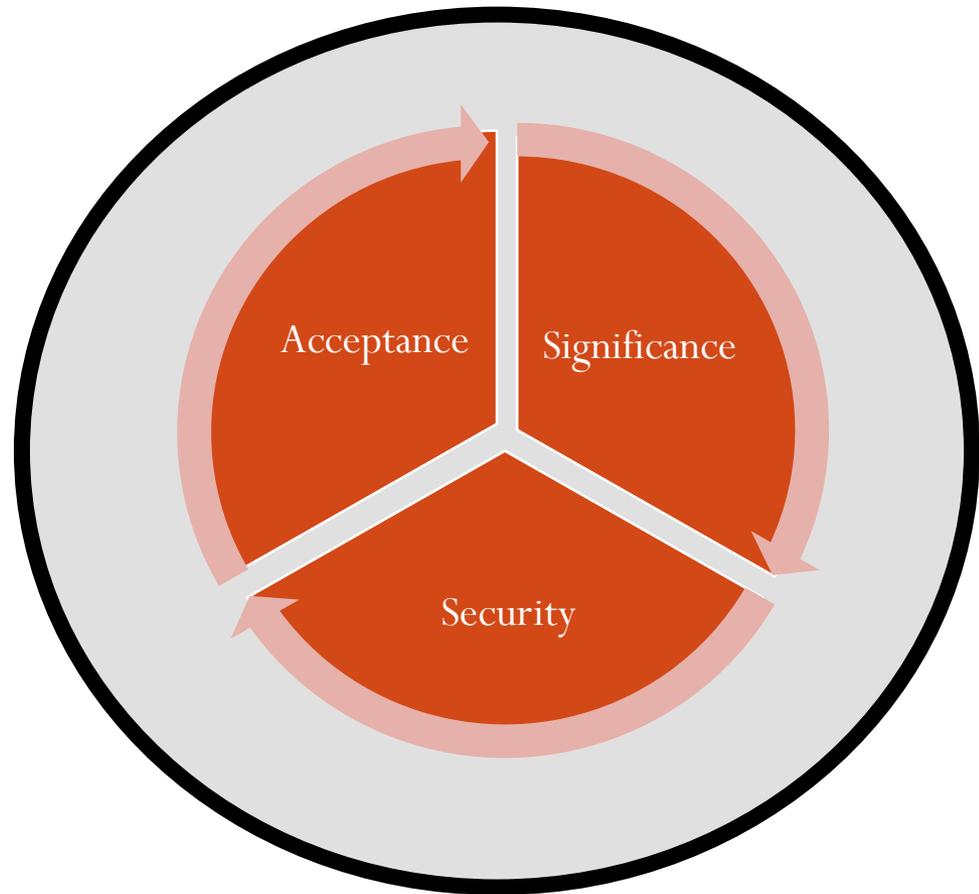


Soul's Shell is not easily broken

- Soul's mission is not under the mission of God
- Soul has been deceived by Satan and his demons
- Soul believes lies
- Soul is shaped by family history and origins
- Soul is hardened by hurts and wounds
- Soul protects itself through un-forgiveness
- Soul is self deceived and not aware of what controls it

Behavior: the natural result of the Soul's motivation

- Can't see the inside, only the outside – behavior
- Our lives are shaped by our inner man



The Gospel: You are fully loved!

Ephesians 2:4-9“4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Gospel makes us sons and daughters...

Rom 8:14-16

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

Son's and Slaves have different motivations

Sons

- Fully loved by the Father
- Accepted, Secure, Significant
- Identity is founded on Christ's finished work

Slaves

- Must work for worth
- Striving for belonging, safety, and importance
- Identity is uncertain and dependent on others

Discipleship requires moving people from an Orphan Spirit to living in Sonship

- Orphan Spirit can not be cast out, it must be squeezed out
- Orphan Spirit does not abide in the love of Christ (Jn 15)
- Orphan Spirit can and does exist in someone who is born again
- Orphan Spirit is squeezed out by abiding in the love of God

Ephesians 3:16-19

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Inside and Outside the Cup

Matthew 24:24-26 25 “Woe to you, Pharisees, and you religious leaders—hypocrites! You are so careful to polish the outside of the cup, but the inside is foul with extortion and greed. 26 Blind Pharisees! First cleanse the inside of the cup, and then the whole cup will be clean.

Inside vs. Outside Discipleship

Inside

- Focus on the Soul
- Results in transformation
- Motivation is love
- Behavior will be changed because of changed motivations
- Disciplines are focused on growing in love for God

Outside

- Focus on Behaviors
- Temporary and outward change
- Motivation is law conformity and approval of others
- Discipleship is focused on information, behavior change, etc.

Soul's shell acts like barrier to getting at the motivations of the Soul

- Soul discipleship requires penetrating the hard shell
- I.E. Wounds: requires healing (without healing the soul does not receive the love of God)
- I.E. Un-forgiveness: Forgive (without forgiveness, we cannot know the love of God)
- Discipleship will be shallow and ineffective apart from discipleship of the Soul and the motivations that drive it.
- Breaking the shell is the work of the Spirit

Goal of Discipleship: LOVE

- All sin is relational
- Holiness is living in perfect love
- Love is the fulfillment of the law
- We are called to abide in the love of Christ (Jn 15)
- Love is what transforms us (1 Jn 3,4)
- Love is supreme (I Cor 13)

Discipleship is a life long work of the Spirit

- **Orientation:** How we currently see ourselves, God and our world
- **Disorientation:** Our world view isn't working
- **Reorientation:** Spirit of God teaches us the truth of God's love

