

New Technology and How We Identify Ourselves

In an increasingly digital and interconnected world, the way we identify ourselves has evolved dramatically. From physical documents to virtual profiles, the essence of our identity is often condensed into **compact formats** that provide a **snapshot of who we are**.

This concept can be metaphorically understood through the **analogy of a business card**—a small, concise representation of an individual's professional and personal identity.

However, when viewed through a more profound lens, **this analogy takes on spiritual significance**, offering insights into the relationship between our body, spirit, and soul.

The Business Card as a Metaphor for Identity

A business card is a simple yet powerful tool. It holds essential information about an individual—name, title, contact details, and sometimes a glimpse into their personality through design or branding. In this sense, the business card serves as a physical manifestation of one's professional identity. **However, the card itself is not the person; it merely represents them.**

Similarly, our **bodies** can be seen as the "**case**" or "**outer shell**" that holds deeper layers of our being. This perspective aligns with biblical teachings, such as those found in

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NKJV):

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Here, the **body** is described as a **vessel**—a temple that houses the true essence of who we are. Just as the business card case protects and carries the cards within, our physical form serves as the container for our **spirit** and **soul**.

The Layers of Identity: Body, Spirit, and Soul

When considering identity from a full perspective, it becomes evident that we are more than just physical beings. The Bible provides a framework for understanding these layers in

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV):

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul,** and **body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

This verse highlights the distinction between **three integral components**: body, spirit, and soul. Each plays a unique role in defining who we are:

- **Body**: The physical aspect of our being, akin to the outer shell of a business card holder. It interacts with the material world and serves as the medium through which we express ourselves.
- **Spirit**: The innermost part of our identity that connects us to the divine. It is the seat of faith, purpose, and eternal significance.
- **Soul**: Often understood as the bridge between body and spirit, the soul encompasses our **emotions, intellect, and will**. It is where our personality and unique individuality reside.

Just as a business card carries vital information about its owner, our spirit and soul **carry the essence of who we truly are**.

The Significance of "Business" in Identity

The term "**business**" itself carries weight in this analogy. It implies purpose, activity, and interaction. In a professional context, business cards are exchanged to establish connections and foster relationships. Similarly, our lives are not meant to exist in isolation; **we are designed for connection—with each other and with God**.

From a spiritual perspective, our "**business**" is to live purposefully and to glorify God through our actions, as emphasized in **1 Corinthians 6:20**:

"For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

This verse reminds us that our identity is not solely for personal gain or self-promotion but for fulfilling a higher calling. Just as a business card serves as an introduction to potential partnerships or collaborations, our lives should reflect values and principles that draw others closer to truth and purpose.

Technology's Role in Shaping Identity

In today's digital age, technology serves as a modern extension of the business card metaphor. Social media profiles, email signatures, and professional networking platforms like LinkedIn function as virtual representations of ourselves. They provide snapshots of our identity, what we stand for, and how we wish to be perceived.

While these tools offer convenience and connectivity, they also raise important questions about authenticity. Are we presenting an accurate reflection of our true selves? Or are we **curating** (*Curating is the process of selecting, organizing, and presenting content, items, or information to create a meaningful, cohesive collection for an audience.*) **an image that prioritizes appearance over substance?**

The challenge lies in ensuring that our digital identities align with our inner values and beliefs.

Embracing a Complete View of Identity

As we navigate the complexities of modern identity in both physical and digital realms, it is crucial to maintain a full view that acknowledges all aspects of our being—body, spirit, and soul. This approach encourages us to look beyond surface-level representations and delve into the deeper truths that define us.

In doing so, we can better understand our purpose and live lives that are not only authentic but also impactful. Just as a well-designed business card leaves a lasting impression on its recipient, a life lived in harmony with one's true identity can inspire and uplift others.

Conclusion

The metaphor of the business card offers a compelling framework for understanding identity in both practical and spiritual dimensions.

By recognizing the interplay between body, spirit, and soul, we can gain a deeper appreciation for who we are and what we are called to do. As technology continues to shape how we present ourselves to the world, let us strive to ensure that our **external representations**, whether **physical or digital, remain true reflections of our inner selves**. In doing so, we honor not only ourselves but also the divine purpose of Jesus for which we were created.

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