

Second Hand Preacher

5th Sunday of Lent

April 2, 2017

Romans 8:8-11

Philosophers and theologians often work with the mind, body, and spirit connection one has with a human person. We are only complete when we work on a strong mind, body, and spirit connection. These elements make up who we are. Often there is a dualism between mind and body showing the merits of the mind and the demerits of the body. It is often believed that the spirit has the power to make them all positive.

St. Paul viewed the flesh as evil. Meaning we shouldn't live in the flesh but instead we should live in the spirit. The flesh was seen as the lower form of life that is away from God and in the darkness. To live in the spirit means to live in the light. Christ is in all things, but we see him most clearly in the light. The dualism between mind and body would be something some of the gentile Christians would understand from their early learning of Plato. The spirit would be a higher plain and these Gentile Christians would be open to Paul's teaching.

Sometimes we seek the lower pleasures of the body. Excessive food, lust in any form, or any other excessive creature comforts make us slightly self-centered. We don't have to be totally stripped of our comforts, but at times we are called to sacrifice so we can reach out more to others. We are called to deny ourselves at times if it means we are able to build up the kingdom. We have to live a balance of Spirit and flesh favoring the spirit when God calls us to the greater good.