

BIBLICAL ASPECTS OF THE SELF

The Biblical concept of who we are as human beings, describes various aspects and natures of our existence — both internal and external. However, they are always presented as a complete whole. The body and soul are never described as existing separate from each other, just as we don't imagine our heart and mind as having a separate and independent existence from that which is "us."

<u>HEART</u>	<u>SOUL</u>	<u>MIND</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>
<i>The Emotional Self</i>	<i>The Psychological Self</i>	<i>The Intellectual Self</i>	<i>The Physical Self</i>
↓	↓	↓	↓
LaVaV (center, middle, heart)	NePheSh (spirit, breath, life)	-	MeoD (power, force, might)
kardia (emotion, morals)	psyche (psyche, life, soul)	dianoia (thought, understanding)	ischuos (strength, power)

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES TO "THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT"

The emphasis in the Biblical text is on the completeness of loving God with one's whole self: heart, soul, mind, and strength. These are not separate creatures or entities, but simply different aspects of one person.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your **heart** (lavav), and with all your **soul** (nephesh), and with all your **might** (meod). (*Deuteronomy 6:4*)

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** (kardia), and with all your **soul** (psyche), and with all your **mind** (dionoia), and with all your **strength** (ischuos).'" (*Mark 12:28-30*)

He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** (kardia), and with all your **soul** (psyche), and with all your **strength** (ischuos), and with all your **mind** (dionoia); and your neighbor as yourself." (*Luke 10:27*)

Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** (kardia), and with all your **soul** (psyche), and with all your **mind** (dionoia).' This is the greatest and first commandment. (*Matthew 22:37*)