Cultivating the Soul, Part 3b
By James Moreland

Moreland:

So we're 15. But now you're stuck with me for 45. So I want to try to do three things in the remaining time. Would somebody mind just going in there and telling them we've started just in case. Huh? [inaudible comment from audience] I thought you said there's a class in there. What's that? [inaudible response] Yeah they're disembodied. No they're tragically embodied I think - an engaged embodiment. I'm going to get to euthanasia next week. Oh bless your heart. We could do it at the mission's conference. Euthanasia. OK. All right. Sorry. Just thought you'd like that.

[Background mumbling]

All right. I want to give you. I want to give you one more point about why you're different.

While you are not your brain or your mental life. Because remember to show that you're a soul you show that you're not your brain and body you're not your conscious life. You're the thing that has your conscious life and your brain and body. So consider the following.
Suppose we had a Person P1. And suppose that we had two bodies here [writing on chalkboard]. B1 and B2.

And suppose we took the brain of P1 and split it down the middle and we put 50 percent of P1's brain in B1's body. So he has 50 percent of P1's brain. And B2 has 50 percent of P1's brain. And suppose after the operation both B1 and B2 who have now received half of P1's brain. Both of them wake up and have all and only P1's memories. So B1 has all of P1's memories and none other than those. And P2 remembers hitting a homerun in high school and they have the same set of memories. OK. You with me on the example here suppose this were to happen. How are we to understand this. There are. Here are the alternatives.

Alternative number one. P1 ceased to exist. Oh excuse me. No I'm sorry. P1 survives. And is identical to B1 after the operation and B2 is a new person with P1's memories. OK so one way one. One way to explain this might be that P1's still alive and he he wakes up and he is he's B1. Now P2 is a completely new person that never existed and now exists and he has P1's memories. That's one possibility possibility number two is just to reverse it. After the operation P1 is equal to B2 and P1 is a completely new person with P1's memories. That's another possibility.

OK here is the third option number three P1 ceases to exist. He's killed. And two new persons. B1 and B2 come to exist with his with P1's memories. You with me on this one now? In this
view maybe maybe Paul P1 here. He didn't survive. He died. He didn't. He's neither one of these
guys. But we end up with two people that have his memories. That's maybe possible. Fourth the
fourth solution which I'm going to try to show you isn't really possible but for now I'll say I'll put
it up there but I'll try to show you this won't work. Number four is that one half of P1 survives
and is identical to B1. And the other half survives and is B2. So on this view all P1 survives but
he's half this person and half this person. OK. Now. This is not an option. And I'll try to show
you why. And if this is not an option this has very powerful implications for the fact we're not
our bodies. Why is this not an option?

Suppose that the scientists to perform the operation said to B1 here. Let me tell you something
about this operation after this operation is over with. I'm going to torture B1 but I'm sending B2
to the Caribbean for the time of his life. Take your bet you want it you want to bet that you'll end
up as B1 or B2? Now one thing we do know that that poor old P1 probably should bet. But one
thing we know that won't happen to P1 is after the operation he is not going to experience both
experiences simultaneously. He won't be tortured at the same - half of him won't be experiencing
torture while the other half of him is experiencing a trip to the Caribbean. Do you understand that
there will be no person that experiences half of one and half the other.

Now you understand that material objects can survive as hard as I could take this podium split it
in half. Attach this half to another half of a podium to form a new podium and attach this half to
another piece of a podium to form a new podium and if you were to ask me where the original
podium was I would say as a whole it doesn't exist but half of it's there and half of it's there. Material objects can survive partially persons ain't like that. They're all or nothing kinds of things.

P1 cannot be half here and half there. Again Why? Because there is no conscious person that is simultaneously experiencing each. Each of those. So my view is it's got to be one of these three so far. Is this seem at least plausible to you. Are you comfortable so far that one of the first three explains it. Now here's what I find really exciting about this. Would you agree with me if we eliminate number four here. Because it just doesn't seem like half of them can be in one place and half of them somewhere else persons don't seem to be those kinds of things.

If you admit that that's not an option then we then we learned something very interesting. Would you agree that there is some fact about this case. That's true. That is to say either either P1 doesn't exist after the operation or P1 really does exist and he's here or P1 exists and he's this guy. Would you admit that one of those could be true it could be true? Yeah and in fact those seem to, can you think of another option. I can't think of one. Unless you're thinking that P one survives and he's a pig or something. I mean you know he's somewhere else. I guess that's possible. But but if we take the options that appear to be reasonable either he survives the operation or he doesn't. There is no other alternative. Right. So. So this says he doesn't survive. If he does survive he's either this guy or this one. I don't know of any other option that's plausible at this point. Notice though and this is this is now the key. The punch line: No amount of
information about his body and brain and no amount of information of mental life is going to tell us where P1 is. Let's think about this.

We know all the facts the right to know about where his brain is. But we don't know where he is. So he is not his brain because if he were his brain we would know where he is. He'd be half here and half there. No amount of information about P one's brain will tell us anything about where he is. Furthermore no amount of information about his behavior his personality. Let's just let personality stand for his traits in his thought life and his memories. No amount of information about his personality will tell us where he is because we know everything about his personality - it's here and there. You understand that means he's not his personality.

Implication: because a fetus doesn't have a personality it doesn't mean it's not a person. When a fetus grows it doesn't become more of a person. It matures AS a person. The development of personality is not the development of personhood. OK. Well I'll hit that next week again because we'll get to abortion and euthanasia which as I've said before is not a missionary movement. What I'm suggesting to you is then that if persons were their brains. Or if persons were their mental life we would have all the facts that we would need right now to know where P1 is after this operation. Right. We don't know where he is. And because we've got all of the factual information we need to know where his brain is and where he is where his memories and personality traits are. If we don't know where he is he has got to be something over and above his personality and his brain. And this shows that persons are mental substances. They're not
properties or brains. Now you'll just have to think about this again and I know this is tonight. It's been like taking a drink out of a fire hydrant.

But but I've I've offered you a range of - if you'll read Chapter 2 again now because some of these arguments are in Chapter 2. If you're if you're interested in it and it will show you how the case can be developed that we are. We have a mental life called a consciousness and those are mental properties and we are mental selves that have our mental life and are connected to a body. Now. So so far so good I hope. Now I want to say something about a map of the soul and talk about cloning and then we'll close for the evening. We've got 30 minutes left.

I know the Chapter 1 in the text may have been a bit difficult but I will tell you that you will not find a better summary of biblical anthropology anywhere. Today on campus at a faculty meeting Dr. Soecy who wrote that chapter got faculty of the Year award at Talbot seminary and he deserved it. He's a very wonderful brilliant man who's dedicated his entire life to serving Jesus Christ through being a theologian of the church and you will not find a better summary of the biblical concept of heart, spirit, flesh, soul, image of God, Sin and that sort of thing than you'll find in that book. And we need in this country a renaissance of teaching about biblical anthropology to people because there is just terrible confusion about what human beings are in the Scriptures.
I'll tell you one quick one you can recognize that the heart more often means the intellect than it does the emotions. And yet we often talk about well I don't want head knowledge I want heart knowledge. Heart knowledge is intellectual knowledge in the scriptures. It is not something other than that but we have coined a new term to heart knowledge to set it in contrast with the intellect. And you just if you don't believe me then you get up you get an concordance and you just trace the word heart to the Bible and you see how it's used.

Now I want to say I want to set out for you. I believe an exciting map of the soul that's consistent with the Bible. Before I do that I want to talk about an acorn. Here's an acorn. And the acorn is as we look at it right now at some time time t 1 the ACORN has the property of being round and brown let's say. You with me on that. So that seems so far so good to you? Here I have got a marble. And the marble has the property of being round and Brown.

There is no difference between the marble and the acorn at this insofar as these two features go, let's suggest. However there is a difference between the ACORN and the marble and it's this. Right this very minute this ACORN has the potentiality to grow a root system so it has a property of of a potential a potential for roots which are not contained in that marble. Is that is that OK with you at this point? Now here is what is incredibly exciting about this. These words the word capacity. Ability. Potentiality. They express what something could be even though it isn't. If something has a potentiality that's something it could be even though it isn't right now. OK. That I mean that seem fair. OK. Do you know that at any moment. There are far more
potentialities true of you than there are actualities? Like right now you're thinking about certain things but you have the potential to think about fifty thousand - one hundred thousand things. By the way all those potentialities are currently invisible. You can't see any of them which means the vast majority of you right now is not open to the senses.

You are a really odd hidden creature you're a lot like God in that regard. You're not you're not the sort of thing that can be seen with the senses. Now you understand that that I have the capacity to speak English even when I'm asleep. Right now I'm actualizing or exercising that ability but when I'm even silent I still have the ability does that make sense to you. So we have what we might call capacities. I have the capacity to to do the multiplication table I have the capacity to to find my home with my car later I have even though right now I'm not engaging that and so on that make sense.

Ladies and gentlemen we also have capacities to have capacities. This is critical for spiritual growth. For example right now I have the capacity let's call this a first level capacity. And let's call this a second level [writing on chalkboard]. I have the first level capacity to speak English. I do not have the first level capacity to speak Russian. I do have the capacity to develop that capacity. Right now I'm at a point in my life where I don't have the capacity to say no to Doritos chips if they're in. I do have the capacity to develop that capacity. If I spend all my time focusing directly on the capacity to say no I'll lose. If I try to develop the capacity to develop that capacity I'll make progress. And that might require me asking what do I need to do to develop the
capacity. And that might involve training of a certain sort. OK. So we have capacities and we have capacities to develop capacities. That seem fair to you at this point. These don't go on forever. You might even have capacities to develop capacities to develop capacities but but eventually they stop with a set of your ultimate capacities that are years when you're born. And then how they trigger depends on what you do and what happens to you. OK

Now your soul is filled with hundreds of thousands of capacities. For example I have the capacity in my soul to see red. Even if it's dark by the way your eyeballs don't see you see with your eyeballs. OK it is the soul that sees things its not the eyeballs although it has to use the eyeballs the eyeballs don't work. Just like if the car doesn't work the driver can't use it. If the eyeballs work the soul can't see. But it's not the eyeballs that see plop them out of your body inside and give them electrical stimulation and see what happens. No it's you. You see by means of your eyeballs. Now I have the capacity to see red. The capacity to see green and purple even when it's dark. Does that seem fair.

I have the capacity to smell a banana to smell a rose to smell perfume even when it's there's no odor. I have the capacity to hear the scene out to hear the Beatles to hear Bach. I have all those capacities. I have the capacity to think about numbers. I have the capacity to think about philosophy or God or my wife. I have the capacity to believe certain things about God and to believe certain things about my wife. I have the capacity to engage in free acts to raise my arm.
For example I have the capacity to choose to talk about a different subject if I want. Those are capacities. You understand that?

Now I'm not the reason I'm telling you this is these capacities fall into natural groupings. Remember Dan Aykroyd is bass-omatic when he'd throw all those fish in that Blender and just ground grinding them up? Well your soul isn't just a bass-omatic. It isn't just. It isn't just a mix master of ten - hundred thousand capacities that aren't related to each other. They fall into families. They fall into families that on the basis of their resemblance to each other. OK. And a faculty of the soul. A faculty of the soul is a family of related capacities. OK?

So here's your soul [drawing on chalkboard]. You have a faculty of sight. That is a faculty you can use the word compartment if you want but but that communicates a spatial location and you're soulless and spatial it isn't like a chest of drawers. So I tend that I don't like to use computer language of the soul. I think that's ungodly. I think it contributes to the mechanization of the person and I'm dead set against mechanizing human beings. And so I don't like computer language I think it's I think it contributes to a dehumanizing view of human beings. So I would rather use ancient language to talk about it because I think it's more accurate and more theologically accurate.
So I'd rather talk about the faculty of sight. Your soul has a faculty that enables it or you to see. Now you won't be able to see if your eyeballs are dysfunctional or if your faculty the faculty of sight is dysfunctional. If you're not noticing something or you if you're so anxious that you can't control your your attention any longer you literally won't be able to see. Now this faculty of sight stands for all the capacities in your soul to see color - blue and green and red. That makes sense at this point? You have a faculty of smell [drawing on chalkboard]. And I'm not putting these around the circumference for any reason. This is your faculty of smell. It's in the soul. This is hearing. This is touch. And this is uh, taste. Now your tongue doesn't taste a thing. You taste with your tongue and you are a soul that employs your body to taste things your soul has a faculty of taste that works with the tongue to get in touch with the flavor of something. Okay are you okay on that. You might not believe it but are you okay with it?

Now the mind the mind. And I'm not putting this in the middle for any other reason. Your mind is a faculty of your soul. It is - your mind are those are your capacities for reads for a reason thought and belief. Your beliefs are in your soul there in your mind. They're not in your brain. Your beliefs are contained in your mind. They're not in your brain. They may have. You may have to have a functioning brain before you can access it. It's OK with me. If your brain gets dysfunctional you might not have a functioning mind any longer. Because remember I'm open to all manner of cause-effect relationships between your body and your soul. You understand what I say on that?
You can say well what happens in Alzheimer's what happens is a chemical imbalance in the brain causes your mind to become dysfunctional. No problem with that. Your - in my view the biblical term spirit is a faculty of the soul. This is my view anyway and your will is another faculty of the soul. And your emotion - emotionality. These are all compartments or faculties within the soul. When I say a faculty remember I mean a family of abilities within your soul. Your soul is you and it is connected to a body.

OK. This is the body. All of these faculties are contained within you. You have - how do I know that? Because you have first person introspective access to all this stuff. You can access all this by introspecting within you. But you do not get in touch with your brain when you introspect folks. You know absolutely nothing about your brain when you introspect you're not aware of anything grey or pulsating or no waves or any of that sort of thing. When you introspect you know what you're aware of? Sensations of sight, sensations of smell, sensations of hearing, touch, taste. You're aware that you exercise acts of will. You're aware of your own thinkings and believings and reasonings and you're aware of your emotionality and you're aware of your spiritual capacities for relatedness with God and spiritual life. Yeah.

[inaudible audience question]
But we use your soul your dwarfs your brain your soul is huge it is huge. And that's one of the reasons that we've got to live forever because your Soul is so cotton-pickin big and pliable that there is literally no limit to the beliefs and feelings and sensations that can contain. It can - it is a potential infinite. Your soul can expand for infinity and get larger and larger. Now I don't mean by that like a balloon. I use that as an illustration. But your soul can contain more and more beliefs and feelings and thoughts and awarenesses as time goes on. There might even be faculties of awareness in the soul that we're not able to trigger before - while the soul is in the body. I don't know. I'm entirely open to that. Yes.

Speaker 2:

Just as uh, we depend on our senses

Moreland:

Yes

Speaker 2:

our physical [inaudible] senses.

Moreland:

That's right. That's right.

Speaker 2:

Then ultimately a red light is seen by my soul
Moreland:

Yes. By me which is my soul. Right. Right.

Speaker 2:

Are we equally dependent upon our body for the reception of spiritual [inaudible], in other words -

Moreland:

The answer is yes and no. Yes. In the sense that your bodily habits have a heavy heavy impact on your spirit. Yeah and that's why fasting and silence and solitude shaped the soul by exercising the body. That's one important implication of this. Go ahead

Speaker 2:

for the Bhudist, who also uses these disciplines.

Moreland:

Yes.

Speaker 2:

The non-believer who does this. What is happening in his soul as opposed to what is happening in our soul?
Moreland:

He's a human being made in the image of God. And the end the system works a certain way and he's in touch with a legitimate way it works. There will be limits to it because his spirit is not made new. So there will be limitations but there will be a partial functioning by doing these disciplines because they are expressions of how we are put together. Regardless of your beliefs. I want to get the cloning here in a minute but yeah. Let's take a couple more. Do you understand this diagram at this point? Whether you accept it or not is not the point. It is in keeping with biblical teaching I think - at least the vast majority of it. And it makes sense of what we know about human functioning.

Speaker 3:

So you mentioned the spirit being made new. I'm trying to understand this idea of our soul, our self being a substance that doesn't change.

Moreland:

OK - it changes in the sense that it can gain new abilities and lose old ones but it is still the same substance.

Speaker 3:

So as we become a new creation and put off the old self, put on the new self

Moreland:

We're not a new self literally
Speaker 3:
We're gaining abilities, functioning.

Moreland:
Right right right right. When you become converted you're not literally a new person. OK.

Speaker 4:
In a way then we're actually not changing ourselves we're just engaging in new capacities?

Moreland:
Good question. It's Both-And. The question was are we changing ourselves or engaging the capacities that we have. Here's my view of this. Literally at the before regeneration you have a spirit but most of the capacities are dead and incapable of being exercised. OK you have a spirit but its capacities are inoperative. The vast majority of them at the New Birth there is literally literally a seed that is implanted in your spirit. Now you don't want to seed is you want to know honestly what a seed is? A seed is a is a life and that's a that is a set of capacities according to the nature of the seed. A seed contains a set of capacities that are relative to what kind of seed it is. An acorn seed has a certain set of capacities. An apple seed or a sperm and egg seed, if you will. They have different capacities depending on the kind of thing it is you understand that. So when that seed unfolds its capacities, which means its living - living is just the development of one's capacities.
What kind of capacities develop? Well it depends on the kind of life the thing has. Right. When you have a new birth you have a new kind of life which means you have the new range of abilities. They are there in germ form and convert - they're latent, they're not exercised. They're latent there they're in fact new sparks can be felt but they're they need to be fostered. Hold on just a minute. As those new capacities which are literally there is a metaphysical transaction that takes place as a new birth. There is literally new life given us.

You ask what is life? It's a set of capacities - that's what it is. When the Bible says there's new life given to us it's not saying let's put this to music and treat it as a metaphor. And sing about it. It's talking about something that literally happens. What is it? There is implanted in a compartment of the soul a new set of spiritual abilities that need to be fostered and developed in a way in a soil that is appropriate to what makes it grow. One of the major sources of nourishment is feeding on the scriptures for example and that causes these capacities to become strong. Now I'll say one other thing about this and I'll take a couple of questions and then I want to jump to one thing.

Ladies and gentlemen the cause effect relationships in the soul run all the way from every faculty to every other faculty and to the body and back. What do I mean by that? If your spirit is dysfunctional it can impact your mind. If you haven't developed your mind you will not have as much spiritual ability as somebody who has in certain ways. If you will have if you have scarred
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emotions it's going to impact your spirit and it's going to impact your ability to see. Racism actually is a set of emotional hatred that keeps a person from being able to see people in a certain way so that even emotions can even affect the faculty of sight you understand. The body can affect the whole mass and this whole mess can affect the body. If you worry you're going to run you're going to hurt your body. If you see certain things it will cause ulcers. Now what I'm suggesting is unless that's a bacteria and then maybe it'll cause some else.

But look here's the deal here. You are not just a - you're not a team of separate faculties all stuck together you're one unified person but within you are a whole range of faculties. Now what Jesus Christ wants you to do is not to grow - when it says he wants you to grow spiritually it doesn't mean he wants your spirit to grow. He means it means he wants you to employ your new life to cause everything to grow. Christians ought to be more intelligent than they would be if they weren't Christians. They ought to have a more activated set of emotionality. They ought to be able to see and appreciate beauty more than other people. Because their soul should be more functional. Now if we're not producing people like that. The problem is not with the new birth. The problem is that we have a we have at some level a mistaken understanding of how this thing works. And what I wanted to suggest in Romans 12 is that central to this whole thing is the intellectual life because central to your growth in spirit is the cultivation of your intellectual abilities. And that's what Paul suggests in Romans 12. His specific example is scripture. Have your mind by the renewing of your mind. Certainly the Scriptures would be a major thing. Now let's have two comments and then I want to say something about cloning and then we're all tired and we'll go. You had one and then our sister back here. Yes.
Speaker 5:
You just answered my question I was going to refer to Paul and the renewal of the mind.

Moreland:
OK.

Speaker 6:
I just wanted you to repeat those last few sentences again.

Moreland:
I'm not sure I was talking about -

Speaker 6:
Romans 12, Employ your new life dah dah dah...

Moreland:
what God wants us to do is to employ to use our new spiritual life to help cultivate every compartment of the soul and vice versa. He wants us to employ our new spirits to strengthen every other faculty of the soul. Now what is beautiful about this is if you want to know what it means to follow Jesus it just literally means to be a fully functioning human being is what it means. It really doesn't mean anything other than that. It means to be a fully functioning human being here and then here.
Speaker 7:
Is that the difference between walking out in the spirit as opposed to walking out in the flesh where you're not just in that carnal physical space but you're having all those areas empowered and controlled by the spirit?

Moreland:
Yeah. Right. The word flesh does not mean body. It's a different word. The word flesh is sarks. The word Soma is body. So flesh doesn't stand your body. Flesh means sinful capacities in the mind and in the soul and body. It's a set of sinful habits habituated capacities in the soul and body. To walk according to the flesh then is to allow those habits to dictate behavior and thought patterns rather than allowing your new spiritual life to do so. Yes ma'am.

Speaker 8:
When you speak about capacities are you associating capacities [inaudible] -

Moreland:
Absolutely. Absolutely. My grandfather's favorite passage before he died. What that means is that even though this and those of us who are aging recognize all too readily that this thing tends to slide for home but you can still have a more vivid passion and have more vivid powers of emotion certainly if your body reaches thing it'll affect your thinking. Now that's a judgment I've got to get to cloning. I've got six minutes and I want to say this and then I want to. I want to
maybe I'll come back to it because next week we're gonna have to move to ethics and more practical things.

In the ancient church there were two views about the origin of the soul. Creationism [writing] and traducianism. This has nothing to do with creation and evolution. This was a debate had in the first four to five centuries of the church that carries up to this day. The Protestant reformers were on divided sides of this question. And so there have been godly men and women in the church who have held both views. According to the creationist God creates the soul by a miraculous act ex nihilo - out of nothing - at the moment when certain physical events happen. OK. So God. Chooses to create souls. When eggs and sperms are fertilized even though if he wanted to he could create a soul when a car bumper broke down. I mean he doesn't have to do it - on the creationist view - when an egg and sperm come together. He could create a soul if he wanted to. When you had heartburn [audience laughter] on that view I mean he had the - but he chooses to act regularly with certain natural laws to create a world where there is regularity and order instead of creating things willy nilly on this view. Do you follow me? So on this view the act of intercourse where a sperm and egg unite do not bring a soul about. They simply provide the occasion where God will then act miraculously. He could have acted. He could refrain from acting at that occasion or he could act on another occasion but he will typically act in a regular way to vouch safe regular laws and so on. You understand that view.
Now on this view I don't know why God could not also create a soul when certain other kinds of cells came together if he wished. So if you were to take let's say an egg from a sheep and cause sheep have souls every bit as much as human beings. If you were to take the an egg of a sheep and take the nucleus out of it and put a cell from from the stomach lining of another sheep into the nucleus of that egg then God could very well honor simply choose to create a soul at that moment. And there is no reason to believe at all as far as I can see that that that God could not do that and doesn't do it. The question would be what evidence would we have that God has acted that way on the creationist view. And it might be that God has chosen to regularly honor certain physical events apart from egg and sperm coming together. It may be that when certain other physical events happen God will faithfully create souls as well. Even though he doesn't have to on this view. You understand this view.

I'm not a creationist I'm a traducian but it's - for me it's about 75/25. But I - some of my friends are creationists and I like my friends. And they're both they're both. They both have strengths and problems that according to the traducian, the Soul is passed on from the parents in the act of intercourse. On this view then egg and sperm should not be understood as strictly material objects. An egg and a sperm have in addition to its physical features it has soullish potentialities within it. When certain physical events happen. Those potentialities are triggered to form an entirely new soul that emerges from within the egg and sperm. So on this view egg and sperm contain soullish potentials that when a certain physical event happens those potentials merge to form a completely new substance - very much like when hydrogen and oxygen come together to form a new substance called water. You have a new nature that comes into existence. Waterhood
if you want to put it that way you no longer have hydrogeneity and oxygenness, you have water hood if you want to talk about it in that way. We're uncomfortable with it.

Now on this view then there may very well be soulish potentialities all throughout one's body parts. There's no reason why one could not hold that there are solar potentials in various components of the body. I'm not saying you have souls and you have a little soul in each one of your cells. No the idea is that your cells could have soulish potentials in them if certain physical events happen those potentialities could be released and triggered. The important thing for the traducian is that there is a relationship between the origin of a soul and physical events. Typically it's the physical event of the union of egg and sperm. When an egg and sperm unite and that's a physical event then that causes a soulless entity to emerge.

Remember we all know that there's a relationship between mind and body. They affect one another. We all know that. I can wield raise my arm and look what happens. I can get hit in the head and I feel something. So there's no problem with matter being able to affect soul and soul being able to affect matter. The question is. Exactly how does it work. And the answer to that is we've just got to you've got to look and see. We have to study the body. We have to study the mind we have to study reproduction and see what the limitations are. So in my mind. The traducian view already gives us precedent to think that there are soulless potentialities at least in egg and sperm and it could very well be - by the way it's very clear that DNA does not contain your genetic information of mine.
In my view I think the evidence is coming in that that's false. There has been widespread scientific data on this now. The journals are now starting to come out with articles. There's a book that came out recently by Brian Goodwin who is a British biologist called "How the Leopard Changed its Spots". That is called - has chapter called "The Myth of DNA" and the idea is that it is a myth to think that DNA contains your genetic information. Brian Goodwin - how the leopard changed its spots. I think it is a myth. I think what DNA does is serves as a very important tool that the soul uses to develop the body but your DNA does not contain your genetic information.

Put it like this. Here's what the evidence - one piece of evidence is this. They've been able to take a DNA and totally out of a cell and that cell continues without any DNA at all to develop its traits. It continues to develop its [inaudible]. They've also been able to take a DNA out of one species - that that can interbreed by the way - and put it in a in an in an egg of another species without a nucleus. Guess what develops? The egg not the DNA. The DNA doesn't contain the information the cell as a whole does. In fact the DNA doesn't even know what to do unless it's got a whole organism to relate itself. So it's the organism that develops its traits not DNA. What the DNA is as a tool. OK. If an artist is using a paintbrush and you give him a chisel instead of a paint brush is it going to affect a byproduct. Is it going to change just the product. Yeah. Does that prove that it's the paint brush producing the product? No. The artist is using it as a tool.
Similarly by manipulating DNA to get a different trait that doesn't prove it's the DNA that produces the trait. All that shows is that the DNA is a critical tool that something else uses to produce the trait. So these potentials could be triggered by some combination of cells. This has been a tough evening and I'm going to have one question that I'm going to let you go for the evening. Yes ma'am

Speaker 9:
Do you believe that the soul's potentialities are absolute, in other words, uh -

Moreland:
We don't all have the same set of - we all have the same ultimate potentials because we're human. If that's what you're asking but we don't in one sense because we all come into the world affected by things.

Speaker 9:
I guess my [inaudible] is are potentialities, like being born again,

Moreland:
Yes.

Speaker 9:
My parents were born again they have that faculty in them.
Moreland: Cultivating the Soul, Part 3b

Moreland:
They do.

Speaker 9:
Does that create then that greater potentiality?

Moreland:
Oh absolutely!

Speaker 9:
For me

Oh for you because it's in them? No because no because you don't get a piece of their soul. In the traducian view it's not a little piece of your parents soul splits off. Souls very much like I tell my daughters gas when I was eight when we were a family my little girl said somebody had a piece of gas you know. I said gas doesn't come in pieces OK neither do souls - it was a joke - neither do souls [laughter] so so souls don't come and pieces you can't split them off or anything but. So it's not like the parents soul, a piece of it makes the new one so I wouldn't - uh, your parents soul. I don't think -

Speaker 9:
So what is that capacity then or whatever that potentiality [inaudible]

Moreland:

Yeah it could be affected by physical things. I don't know. I'd have to I don't know what affects it. I don't know. Thank you. I probably didn't have it.

Thank you.

[Applause]

You're very gracious. Thank you.