

Is Man a "*Spiritual Being*" or a "*Human Being*"?

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In many Christian and, paradoxically, "new age" circles man is often said to be a "spiritual being." This puts man into a similar category with angels, evil spirits, etc. It also makes him a part of the so-called spiritual world. But is this biblically accurate? I quote from E.W. Bullinger's work *Word Studies on the Holy Spirit*, pp. 19-20:

By the union of "body" and "*pneuma*" [spirit], man becomes "living soul," i.e., a living being (Gen. 2:7). When the body returns to dust "as it was" (Gen. 2:19), and the *pneuma* returns "to God who gave it" (Ecc. 12:7; Ps. 104: 29-30), man becomes, and is called, a "dead soul." See Lev. 21:11 and Num. 6:6.

Hence, at death the *pneuma* is "commended" to God for his keeping (Ps. 31:5; Luke 23:46; Acts 7:59), until it shall be re-united with the body in resurrection. While man thus possesses *pneuma*, he is never once called "a spirit," as angels are. They are *spiritual* beings, man is a *human* being.

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