

**October 2nd, So Why the War?**  
**Part 3 in the series 'Human'**

What were some things from Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Why do some people prefer the idea that we are creatures of instinct, with no ability to make free choices?

Jim mentioned several historical examples of what happens when governments ignore or try to replace God. (Stalin, Hitler, Communist China) Why do you think this cycle repeats itself, and why does it end the same way?

Yuval Noah Harari and many others have claimed that free will is only an illusion. They had no choice but to say that. If that were true, what would that mean? (For human history, for the meaning of life, for our relationships, for our careers, etc.)

After viewing the unpredictable behavior of atomic particles, astrophysicist Sir James Jeans said "The universe is looking less like a great machine, and more like a great thought." What are your own thoughts about that statement?

Paul warns Timothy that people will have a form of godliness, but deny its power. In what ways does that relate to our free will?

In what ways do you experience the conflict between our sinful nature and our spiritual nature?

**Read Romans 8:5-9**

"Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ."

If our mind is governed by the Spirit, do we still have free will? If so, what kind of choices would we be expected to make?

How can we "feed the spirit dog" in this conflict between the flesh and the spirit?

Jim said “Any desire you pursue outside of God’s will and design becomes an evil desire that wages war against your soul.” Can you think of examples of good desires that get twisted into something destructive?