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What is Death

An Analytical Perspective

In chiropractic we talk about restoring life in the sense of restoring the expression of intelligence through matter (*Principle #20 of the Thirty-three Principles - the chiropractic philosophical definition of life*). It is done through the adjustment, but it refers solely to an aspect of physical life, rarely approaching the issue of the death of the individual, as it relates to our philosophy. While it is true that physical death necessarily terminates the application of our chiropractic practice, there are other aspects of death that relate to chiropractic.

First, we must realize that death, in any sense of the word, does not mean the termination of existence. In chiropractic philosophy we describe that differently by Principles # 1 and #21 (*existence and innate life*). We, in the Christian community, find it difficult to think that our unbelieving deceased relatives and friends will spend eternity separated from God, but we know that is what the Word of God tells us.

One of the frequently asked questions I received when teaching chiropractic philosophy in a chiropractic college was *"What happens to the innate intelligence of the body when the person or organism dies physically?"* The answer, according to chiropractic philosophy is that *"it goes back to the intelligence of the universe."* That was never an adequate answer for me. I reasoned that the innate intelligence is a law like the law of gravity rather than an entity like the soul. Apparently, B.J. had the latter notion and incorrectly equated the innate intelligence with the soul (*and universal intelligence with God*). The law of gravity is being expressed whether an object is falling to the earth, falling to the moon's surface, lying on the kitchen floor or whether it applies to a 747 successfully flying at 30,000 feet. The same is true of the soul when a corpse is lying in the morgue. If God created the soul, and He did, then it continues to exist somewhere forever, either in God's presence or separated from Him.

Chiropractically speaking, death is a separation of the expression of the innate intelligence and the matter. The law of organization, however, albeit in a different form, still exists (Principle #1 vs. Principle #21). By analogy, if I drop my keys on the ground, the law of gravity is still acting upon them even if they are not moving. Gravity is still exerting enough force to cause them to fall at 9.8m/sec² (*if they were able to move*). *Physical death is the lack of innate life through the body's matter. Partial physical death (death of cells, tissues, or organs) is the lack of the expression of innate intelligence through matter that is deprived of its innate forces (due to vertebral subluxation or another cause).*

Spiritual death is caused by a lack of relationship with God. We are born spiritually dead because of the sin nature that we inherited through Adam. *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"* (Romans 8:12). *"God commended his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ*

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died for us" (Romans 5:8). The spiritual "adjustment" that each of us needs is adjusting to the Justice of God by faith in Jesus Christ which Scripture calls being "born again." Upon physical death, the soul of the believer continues to exist eternally with God. *"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord"* (II Corinthians 5:8).

Upon physical death, the soul of the unbeliever in Jesus Christ will exist eternally separated from God. *"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire"* (Revelation 20:14-15). Theologically, this is called the second death. Our physical matter becomes universal matter and returns to the dust from which it came. The real person, that is, the soul, does not cease to exist.

As chiropractors, we address physical life and its absence (physical death). As Christians, we address spiritual life and its absence (spiritual death). Chiropractic is the good news about physical, temporary life. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of eternal life. Our life, our work, and our words should reflect the good news about experiencing life, temporal and eternal.

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