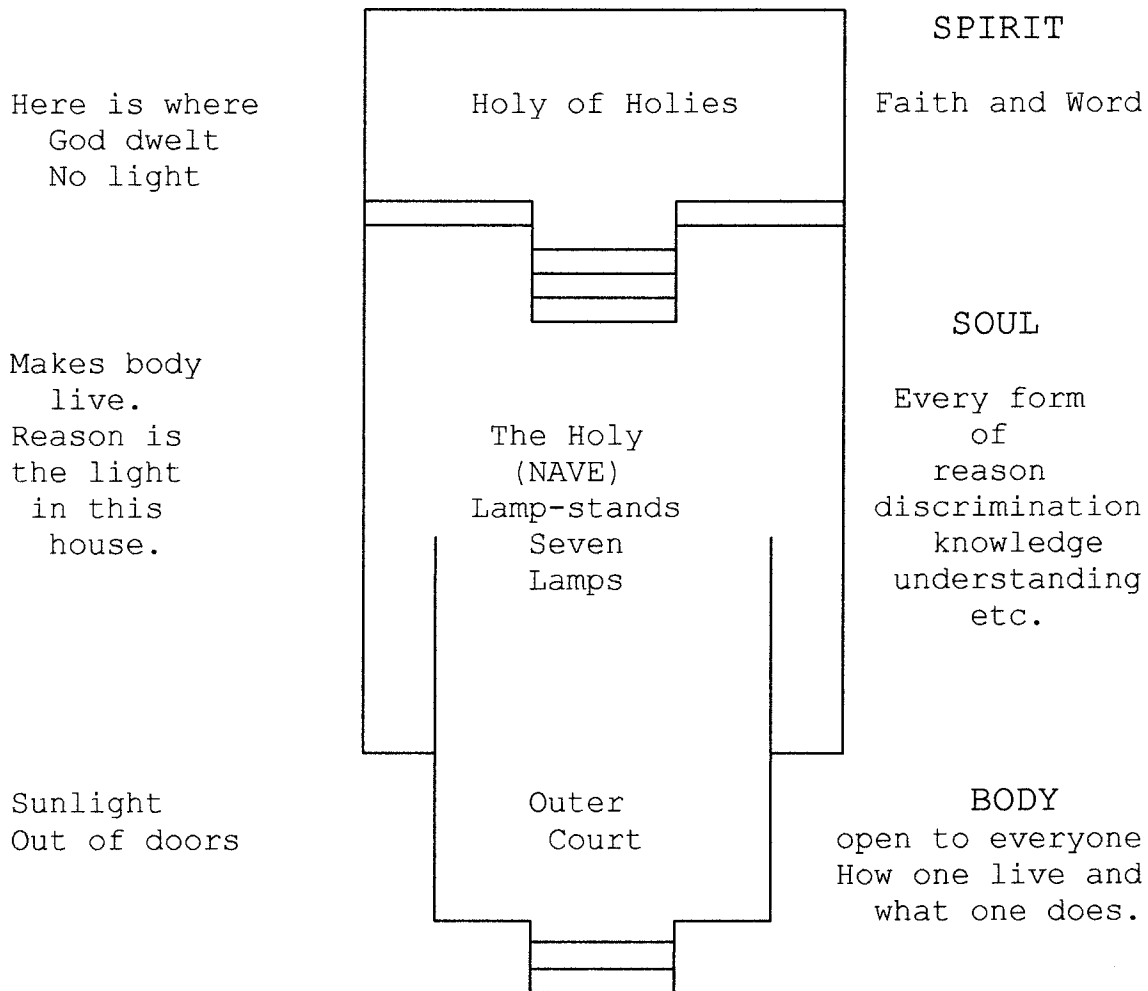


Luther's Metaphor of the Temple for Spirit, Soul, and Body



Luther does not have a tri-partite division of the person, as one might imagine from this metaphor. Luther has the Hebrew sense of the whole person, like a sphere. If it is turned one way, it can be considered from the aspect of the mind, from another aspect, the body, another, the soul, spirit, conscience, etc.

Thus in Luther's definitions of spirit and flesh in his "Preface to Romans," flesh must not be understood as if it had only to do with chastity and spirit only with the inward state of our hearts" (page 110). One can be spiritual in the simplest service rendered to another and one can be have a false spirit and be filled with the vice of unbelief. Hence the term *flesh* is the whole person [body and soul, with its reason and all its senses] oriented away from God and neighbor, while *spirit* is the whole person oriented toward God and neighbor" (page 105).