



You Are More Than Your Mind Ephesians 4:17-24

- I. Pray and read passage together (Ephesians. 4:17-24)
- II. Has anyone in the group ever explained the gospel to someone and they could grasp it logically, but not follow in faith because it did not penetrate the heart. Discuss why this is and how we can bridge this gap.
- III. Discuss the two competing ideas of truth and how our world seeks to resolve the tension by making one private and the other public:
 1. **Modernists** believe that reliable knowledge can only be had through observing the natural order. "I think therefore I am."
 2. **Postmodernism**, which claims that the lower story is primary and the upper level facts/science are mere mental constructs. What really matters is our feelings; "I feel therefore I am."
- IV. Discuss the tension you have experienced at work between what is publicly acceptable (objective) and privately acceptable (subjective). How do you live in this tension?
- V. Read **Ephesians 4:17-19** again. What is Paul saying, try to summarise passage in your own words: 1. What does Paul trace back to the root problem with unbelievers? 2. How do the mind and heart relate to each other?
- VI. Have the group look up the following verses and share this consistently taught basic principle found throughout scripture: Mark 7:19-20; Matthew 9:1-4; Genesis 6:1-5; Romans 1:21,28; Matthew 13:14-15. How do these verses help us understand Ephesians 4:17-19?
- VII. Read **Ephesians 4:20-24**. What happens to the believer, who "learned Christ". What does it mean to "learn Christ".
- VIII. Look up 2 Cor 3:14-17 and 2 Cor. 4:3-6. How do these verses help inform our Ephesians passage?
- IX. How does the "renewing of the mind" happen? How can our minds be renewed? (See 1 Cor 2:11-16).
- X. Christ speaks to us through the Spirit, the Bible and the church (other believers). How does this affect our inner-self? If Romans 12:1-3 speaks about conforming and transforming how does this relate to "renewal of the mind" (Eph 4:23; Rom 12:3)
- XI. The sermon ended with a fundamental question we all must wrestle with continually. How are our mind, emotions and will tempted in different ways to take charge or give into Satan's lies.
 - A. *The Bible's teach about the heart, teaches us that the decision for Christ is not just about what we think or comprehend up here. . . but rather it is the holistic inner-life. Our minds know. . . what our emotions love. . . and what our will obeys. . . together these form either a regenerated heart in Christ. . . or a hard, calloused heart. .*
 - B. *So, the key question in determining our identity is **who is sitting at the CEO's spot in the conference table of our hearts?***
- XII. If our inner-life is like a board table composed of many different identity markers (gender, family, race, etc), then how does the Lordship of Christ, help us order all of our other identity markers?