

IDENTITY

WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE.



You Are More Than Your Mind

Ephesians 4:17-24

“The internal self-interpreting, self-directing memory is the most complex, fascinating, enjoyable, and determinative part of identity, and it is the reason Scripture speaks so frequently of the mind.”

-Snodgrass, *Who God Says You Are*, p 108-109.



I think;
therefore
I am.

Descartes

Two Understandings of Truth

1. **Modernists** believe that reliable knowledge can only be had through observing the natural order.

Empirical science, held
to be objectively true
and testable.

Morality and theology,
treated as private/
subjective/relative.

Two Understandings of Truth

1. **Modernists** believe that reliable knowledge can only be had through observing the natural order.
2. **Postmodernism**, which claims that the lower story is primary and the upper level facts/science are mere mental constructs.

Public

Empirical science, held
to be objectively true
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Private

Morality and theology,
treated as private/
subjective/relative.

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

— Ephesians 4:17-19

“The biblical understanding of the heart and our modern understanding of the heart are almost opposite. Today, heart is understood to refer to a person’s emotions. Biblically, the heart refers to the whole person, including our capacity to think.”

- OS Guinness

The heart includes what we **know** (our knowledge, thoughts, intentions, ideas, meditation, memory, imagination), what we **love** (what we want, seek, feel, yearn for), and what we **choose** (whether we will resist or submit, whether we will be weak or strong whether we will say yes or no.)

-Craig Troxel, "With All Your Heart" p. 20

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— Ephesians 4:17-19

19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person.

— Mark 7:19-20

4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?”

— Matthew 9:4

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

— Genesis 6:5

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. . . . 28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.

— Romans 1:21,28.

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

— 2 Cor 4:4

““You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. 15 For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’

— Matthew 13:14-5

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— Ephesians 4:17-19

20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!—
21 assuming that you have heard about him and
were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to
put off your old self, which belongs to your former
manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful
desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your
minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after
the likeness of God in true righteousness and
holiness.

— Ephesians 4:20-24

14 But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. 15 Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. 16 But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

— 2 Cor 3:14-17

6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

— 2 Cor 4:6

11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. . . we have the mind of Christ.

— 1 Cor 2:11-13,16

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

— Romans 12:2-3

The renewal involves our whole self, but in Romans 12:2, Paul pinpoints the mind. Under the direction of Christ, the Christian's mind is constantly "being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator (Col 3:10; Eph 4:23). There is a constant sharpening, honing, reorienting, and recalibrating of our attitudes, perspectives, goals, and life view. Just as a musical instrument needs to be retuned, a machine needs to be retooled, or a child needs to be reminded, our ability to resist a hostile world and thrive in it will come down to this work of reonovation.

—Craig Troxel, "With All Your Heart", p57