

Changing the Way You Think

Church and Culture (Part 8):

“Understanding the Signs of the Times” (Identity)

1 Chronicles 12:32

From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take...

Identity * Purpose * Success * Beauty * Love * Hope



- What I Want is Who I Am
- I Alone Have the Right and Authority to Define Who I Am
- My Desires, Feelings, and Emotions Are Legitimate Because They Are Me
- My Actions Based on These Desires, Feelings, and Emotions Are Right and Good
- My *Personal Experience* of Satisfaction and Happiness Living According to My Desires, Feelings, and Emotions
- These Become My Authoritative Truth
- Anyone Who Cares for Me Will Affirm My Personal Authoritative Truths

Originally Made in the Image of God

Genesis 1:26-28, 31

Then God said, "Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule..." So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth..." And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

The Fall & Original Sin

Romans 5:12, 17-18

Through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all mankind...death reigned...So then, as through one offense the result was condemnation to all mankind...

Psalms 51:5-6

Behold, I was brought forth in guilt, And in sin my mother conceived me.⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in secret You will make wisdom known to me.

- **“Me” Is Catastrophically Corrupted and Distorted**

Romans 1: 21-24, 26-29

Even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they **became futile in their reasonings**, and their **senseless hearts were darkened**.²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools,²³ and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man... Therefore God **gave them up to vile impurity in the lusts of their hearts...** God **gave them over to degrading passions...** And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God **gave them up to a depraved mind**, to do those things that are not proper,²⁹ *people* having been **filled with all unrighteousness...**

- Futile in their Reasoning
- Senseless Hearts Darkened
- Given Over to Vile Impurity and Lust
- Given Over to Degrading Passions
- Given Over to a Depraved Mind
- Filled with All Unrighteousness

Psalms 14:1-3

The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they have committed detestable acts; there is no one who does good.² The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of mankind to see if there are any who understand, Who seek God.³ They have all turned aside, together they are corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

- **My Deep and Primal Feelings Are Untrustworthy**

Jeremiah 17:5-6, 9-10

This is what the Lord says: “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the Lord.⁶ For he will be like a bush in the desert, And will not see when prosperity comes, But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt that is not inhabited...⁹ “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? ¹⁰ I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, To give to each person according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.

Eccl. 9:3

The hearts of the sons of mankind are full of evil, and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives.

- **God and His Word Will Be Increasingly Seen as an Enemy to Self**

John 3:19

And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil.

- **My Self (“Me”) Will Fight to the Death to Survive and Thrive**

Romans 7:22-24

I joyfully agree with the law of God in the inner person,²³ but I see a different law in the parts of my body waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of sin... which is in my body’s parts.²⁴ Wretched man that I am! **Who will set me free...?**