

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER Part 1: Ugly Thoughts

Objective: To challenge us to let Jesus change our lives by renewing our minds.

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:5

...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Philippians 4:8

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...

Romans 12:2

*Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

Psalms 51:10

- How have you experienced the reality that your thoughts set the direction of your life? Has that been more of a positive or a negative for you?
- Have you ever taken the time to stop and think about what you think about? What did you think about what you discovered? Do you think your thought patterns are helpful or could they lead to you being an 'ugly Christmas sweater'?
- Thinking about what is 'better' isn't always as easy as it sounds. It requires that we put the right things into our minds. Think about what you feed your mind; does it lead you to think about those things that are better? How do you know?
- True and lasting transformation can only come from Jesus. Have you ever asked him to 'renew your mind?' If not are you willing to be intentional about asking him? What makes you nervous about the idea of asking him to renew your mind? What thoughts might you have to give up?

Consider this week:

- As we enter the craziness of the holiday season, what ugly thoughts do you need to take to Jesus and ask him to transform in to beautiful thoughts?

Final Thought: We don't have to have ugly thoughts. If we will sincerely ask him and allow him, Jesus will renew our minds and transform our ugly thoughts into something beautiful

