

Romans part 44

“Renewing the Mind”

So good to be with you today, last week Laury and I were in Spokane help a church that is going through a transition in pastors. I want to brag on us here, and thank Jesus that we get to raise up a new leader from in our own church, change can be an anxious time but it is also a time when we celebrate what God has done and what He is going to do.

Tim and Maddie take over April 1, he is young, but he is also smart and loves Jesus and is honoring of the past as well as looking toward the future, this is where we all get to pray and thank Jesus He has let us in on what He is doing. Tim is on staff now, full time, for better or worse he is following me around and learning hearing for the future. I can not tell you how excited Laury and I are to be a part of what is going on here at LCF, Tim is not going to be Dave 2.0, he is going to be Tim, but we, Laury and I want you to know just how proud of he and Maddie and how excited we are for the future...

So as we keep going in outstudy of the book of Romans,

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who

teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:1-8

When we are exposed to the word of God, our way of thinking begins to change, we go from a life of fear and depression, one of anxiety and hopelessness to a life of possibility. We put to rest familiar “enemies” and begin to have a mind that can understand that we have purpose, we can get healing and we can reprogram the way we think.

In verse 2, Paul says to not be conformed or shaped by this age, not meaning of this time in history, but instead by the forces of a old, dying, corrupt world but be raised to a higher form of decision making by allowing the Holy Spirit and the word of God to refresh your mind, or the Heart-mind, where wisdom or foolishness lives.

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. Romans 8:6-7

- a. The mind of the flesh, natural human reasoning.
- b. The mind of the spirit, where the Holy Spirit gives guidance to someone who is surrendered to God.

In the last part of verse two, if you do these things you will know or discern the will of God, by changing the way I think to the way that God thinks, iwill discover the good, perfect will of God.

I see so many people trying to figure life out, if you learn to think like God it comes a lot easier!

I love verse three,

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith Romans 12:3

I think one of our biggest problems is that we think to highly of ourselves, we are proud... we begin to look down on people, we become “drunk” on our own opinions.

First remember, each one of us has been given the gift of faith by God, one person doesn't receive more than another.

So, I want to take the time this morning to talk about the power of the renewed mind.

At salvation, the moment I say yes to Jesus and make Him my savior, I have a decision to make;

- a. **am I buying fire insurance**, I just don't want to go to hell, but I don't really want to change all that much, or;
- b. **do I want Jesus to be my Lord** and specifically, the Lord of me.

When I get saved I am a new creation,

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

I may be a new creation, but I have the same mind, the same thinking, I am making decisions out of the old way, pre-salvation mind. So in reality, I am “unequally yoked with myself!

So now look at this;

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!
So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. Romans 7:21-25

Here is the dilemma and in a minute I am going to give you the solution to the dilemma. Because I am “unequally yoked” to myself, I am at war with me. The spirit man who is born again and perfect is at war with my mind, my stubborn, self-defeating me. I met the enemy and He looks a lot like me!

O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open.¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections.
¹³ Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.
¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

**“I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.”**

**¹⁷ Therefore
“Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you.”**

**¹⁸ “I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the LORD Almighty.” 2 Corinthians 6:11-18**

Now we often quote this passage of the word to explain why we shouldn't date or be in business with a non-believer. And that is good and well. But what if the person I am unequally yoked to is me?

1. What if I am unequally yoked with me?

Paul said there is a battle going on in me, I want to do what is right, healthy, good, perfect. I want to quit making choices out of my woundedness or my

addictive personality, but I can't! I start the day out to not lie, not cheat, not lust, not gossip, not be narcissistic. I have good intentions, I have good plans, I have people praying for me, I have an accountability partner...

But I keep sinning, I keep making bad choices, I am at war with me!!

I want to be a giver, but I make bad choices with my money, so I am always broke! I want to be telling my friends about Jesus, but I can't stop...

The problem is not that you are a bad person, that you are just a terrible, no-account sinner. The problem is I was born with a corrupted way of thinking, I grew up in a home full of sinners, and so I will have flashes of victory over me, but in the end I am exhausted fighting me.

Paul said it best;

***O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵
I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!***

Who will deliver me from this mind and lifestyle that I am stuck in? “I thank God through Jesus Christ”

When Jesus died on the cross, He secured my salvation and He gave to me the power through His Holy Spirit to overcome everything that drags me back to the way I was...

So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. Romans

So what is the answer?

2. The renewed mind!

Before we begin on this point, can you think of a time that the Holy Spirit spoke to you? What did He say and how did you know it was Him?

So I want to show you how through Jesus we have the absolute ability to change the trajectory of our life.

- Everything starts with the decision to completely surrender.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. Romans 12:1

I think Tim talked about this last week. God wants us to yield our lives BEFORE He will guide. Many of us hear His will for our lives and then the struggle begins. I believe that the lack of true surrender is the real source of our confusion. “what does He want me to do with my life? Why does everything seem to be so hard with me? Why do I have so many problems with relationships? Why is marriage in so much trouble? Why are my finances in such trouble?

Every one of those questions is answered by true surrender.

- I learn a higher form of decision making which recognizes and rejects the “mind of the flesh” and embraces the “mind of the Spirit”.

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:6-8

The fact is that now I have access to the one who knows everything, who can lead me around the things I don’t know. But all this starts with the renewing of the mind, going from a mind that cannot understand, or comprehend what God is saying or doing...

3. My response.