

NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 9/28/2020-10/2/2020

The following content is based on the message on 9/27/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // DISCOVERING TRUTH IN CREATION

Read Genesis 1:27-31. God created humanity as male and female. When God created men and women, He created them physically different and He created them emotionally different. We can see this as true both from scripture and from science. God's truth has been discovered more and more through scientific discoveries. What science has found is that men and women's brains fire differently. We are different. We have equal importance and value, but we are different.

We don't create truth. We discover truth because truth is.

- *Why can you trust that all science will point to God?*
- *Sit in an attitude of silence for at least two minutes. Reflect on the trustworthiness of God.*

TUESDAY // INTRICATELY CREATED BY GOD

Read Psalm 139:13-16. This Psalm highlights how intricately God made each of us. We each are created differently. The differences that we see between the two genders both reflect the image of God. The image of God cannot be changed in us. The differences in our created being should help us understand the beauty of who God is and should be celebrated. God's reflection is found in all of us. Seeing how we are all created should cause us to worship God.

The physical and psychological differences in men and women do not suggest any difference in essence, value, or worth.

- *In what ways do you need to see the importance of both genders in revealing the image of God?*
- *How could men reveal God's image more clearly?*
- *How could women reveal the image of God more clearly?*
- *Sit in an attitude of silence for at least two minutes. Reflect on the beauty of God.*

WEDNESDAY // SIN DISORDERED OUR MINDS

Read Jeremiah 17:9. As we have seen, we are all made in the image of God. We all reflect God. However, scripture doesn't avoid the reality that sin has disordered the entire world. Jeremiah said that the heart is deceitful. The word used to describe the heart here refers to the entirety of the heart and mind. You could say that each of us

has disordered thinking. In some ways, you could say that we all have a mental disorder. Of course, the way that we look at the world and look at gender is going to be effected by the disorder caused by the sin that infected the world in Genesis 3.

Following disordered thinking doesn't lead in the right direction.

- *How should knowing that our minds are disordered by sin cause us to both show grace to others/self and to have a level of distrust toward others/self?*
- *If our minds are deceitful, then we need to face the fact that sometimes it leads us in the wrong direction. Set a timer for two minutes. Ask God to reveal to you some ways that your thinking is leading you in the wrong direction. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you.*

THURSDAY // CHRIST RENEWS OUR MIND

Read Romans 11:33-Romans 12:2. Scripture tells us that we are able to transform our minds. But how do we do that? Paul says that we should conform to the image of God. Our identity should only be found in Christ alone. Any identity that is ultimately placed outside of the identity that we've been given in Christ will let us dawn. When we align our mind with the mind of Christ, then our whole person will be continually transformed into the ways of Christ. If our minds are not transformed in Christ, then we will inevitably try to transform ourselves into the way of culture.

We can't sacrifice our minds in order to transform our bodies.

- *Our disordered minds will constantly try to find our identity somewhere other than in Christ. What is the recurring way that you search for your identity outside of Christ?*
- *Tell God that you search for your identity outside of Him. Sit in silence and allow Him to speak to you regarding your identity.*

FRIDAY // LOVE AND PEACE IN THE SPIRIT

Read Philippians 4:4-9. One of the ways that God offers us help in transforming our minds is through the Holy Spirit. Despite the deceitfulness of our hearts, the God of the universe lives within us. His Spirit is placed within us when we begin following Jesus and He speaks love and peace into our hearts. The love and peace of God is powerful. The apostle Paul said that it actually guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit wants our minds to be renewed into the mind of Christ. He wants to guard us with His power to protect us in Christ.

- *How do you submit yourself to the Holy Spirit to allow His love and peace to guard your mind in Christ?*
- *What are some ways that you can make more room for the Holy Spirit in your life?*
- *Sit in silence and allow the love and peace of the Holy Spirit to guard your mind today.*