

A Changed Mind - A Changed Goal - A Changed Relationship

- Jesus' goal was disciples (*John 8:31-32*).
- Discipleship is about movement, not location.
- Drawing near to God (discipleship) entails inward and outward cleansing (*James 4:8*).
- The Kingdom of God is destined to leaven every aspect of our lives (*Luke 13:18-21*).

A Changed Mind

One of the primary and long-term impacts of the Kingdom's leaven is on our minds, our thought-processes, our values. Christianity changes my mind. But why change our minds?

Romans 8:5-8

- A carnal mind is: against God, not subject to the law of God, and therefore cannot please God.

Philippians 2:5, Hebrews 5:12-14, 2 Peter 3:18

Romans 12:1-2

- Beseech: Pleading, begging, imploring.
- Bodies: Christianity is more than a "heart" experience.
- Living sacrifice: totally surrendered to Christ
- Acceptable to God: He is the One we live to please.
- Reasonable: This Christian lifestyle is not outlandish, bizarre or strange.
- Transformation comes by renewing our minds

Colossians 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:8

Our starting point dictates the difficulty of this transformation.

I.e. Judeo-Christian, Neutral, Contrary

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

- The enemy is afraid if right thinking. Therefore, he battles with arguments, with assaults against the knowledge of God, and with random, disobedient thoughts.

Romans 6:17-19

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A Changed Goal

The concept that drives continued progression is God's call to holiness. And this concept is really the foundation for discipleship. David Bernard's Essentials of Holiness explains that holiness is (1) separation from sin and the world system and (2) dedication to God and His will.

O.T. References to holiness:

Holiness is recorded as being necessary in worship (*1 Chronicles 16:29, Psalms 29:2*).

God referenced His Holiness as motivation for the Israelites to follow His instructions and directions (*Leviticus 11:45, Leviticus 19:1-2*).

Leviticus 20:7-8 Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I *am* the Lord your God. ⁸And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I *am* the Lord who sanctifies you.

N.T. References to holiness:

Ephesians 5:25-27

- As with the Israelites, God continues to desire holiness from his N.T. church.

1 Peter 1:13-16

- Here Peter actually references the same O.T. passage "Be holy, for I am holy" making a direct connection for the church today.

2 Corinthians 7:1

- "flesh & spirit": again, our faith progression is both internal and external
- "perfecting" holiness: also, as renewing our minds is a process, so changing our flesh and spirit is a process.

Hebrews 12:14-15

A Changed Relationship

Galatians 5:16-25

- Now we can live and walk in the Spirit!

In the O.T. God provided His statutes to teach people to become more like Him. To be a follower of God, humans could only depend on their own willpower, their own determination.

In the N.T., because of the death, burial, & resurrection of Jesus Christ, our relationship with God has changed. The Lord still wants us to be holy, to be like Him, but now He has provided us with His own power (The Holy Spirit) to assist us in the effort, to empower us for the change.