

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

October 23, 2019

The Mind and the Heart

Recently, Bro Leroy Surface shared a dream in which he saw a congregation of people worshipping God. As he listened closer he realized something was very strange. The words they spoke and the music they sang to were very beautiful, but their voices were mechanical, such as how robotic voices were portrayed in 70's and 80's movies. There was no true worship at all. It was all training. It was all programmed like it was generated by a computer.

Many view the human mind to be basically a highly advanced data processor. If you input good data, you get good results out of it. If you input bad data, you get bad results. There are certain truths to this view of the mind and in limited measure it can be proven in every area of society, but an accumulation of "many truths" do not add up to "the truth," which Jesus said "shall make you free" John 8:32.

As a whole, the church has embraced this same view of the Christian mind. When a person makes a profession of faith in Jesus Christ they are immediately declared by the church to be a new creation in Christ Jesus. They are told that they are now righteous in the eyes of God and will never be judged for their sins. This profession has supposedly changed everything about their standing with God and their eternal destiny, but for some reason their thoughts and desires are as

unrighteous as ever. “This is just normal” they are told, “You will not see the manifestation of being a new creature until you have gone through the process of “renewing your mind.”

So the process begins of reprogramming our “data processor.” Start deleting the bad and inputting in the good. Principles, precepts, confessions, etc. The list of “recovery programs” seems to increase by the day. It all makes sense. The mind must be “reprogramed” before the good fruit of Christ can be manifest in our experience as it ought to be. There seems to be only one dissenting voice to this view of the mind. It came from one named Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus said, *“For from within, **out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.**”* Mark 7:21-23. He is clear that “*evil thoughts*” in the mind are not merely a result of incorrect data input. The things that work in your mind proceed from your heart. In fact, everything that defiles a person comes from their heart; ...and not their mind. The nature of sin in the heart is like a generator, which produces the evil which is stored there. The heart distributes its contents to the mouth, the mind, the hands, and the eyes. It fills the entire person with what it possesses. This will never change until sin in the heart is “*taken away.*” John 1:29.

Jesus confirms this saying again, *“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: **for of the abundance of the heart***

his mouth speaketh.” Luke 6:45. What you speak, what you think, and what you do, all depend upon what is stored in your heart. You can attempt to change your speech, your thoughts, and your actions, but these endeavors are the *“filthy rags”* of human *“righteousness-es”* if the heart has not been washed from sin by the blood of Christ. Yet when your heart is changed, everything changes. This also includes your words, your thoughts, and your actions.

The terms of redemption were revealed when God said, *“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.”* Ezekiel 36:26-27. This is what happens in true salvation. You have a different *“generator”* within. It is a new heart. It is Christ in you!

This receiving a new heart is not a process. It is the miracle of salvation! According to the Apostle Peter, the hearts of Cornelius and those with him were purified by faith in the moment they believed, immediately before the Holy Ghost fell upon them. Acts 15:8-9. A child of God is not made up of the data that is programmed into them. They are new creatures, with a new heart, a new spirit, and the life of God springs up from within, filling their entire being!