

Darkness of the Mind

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 4:17-21.

B. It is hard to know what to believe today with so many authorities clashing.

II. One must no longer live as the Gentiles in the futility of their minds.

A. The Gentiles refer to the world's thinking.

B. The world's philosophy of living is empty.

1. There is a fundamental difference between the ways of the world and the ways of God.

2. We cannot associate with the former.

3. Man prides himself on his thinking, but Christianity brings a revolutionary change in behavior from man's ways.

C. Man's thinking is pointless because it stems from ignorance and does not better him.

D. Man's thinking is darkened.

1. The first evidence of the Christian life must be a change in thinking.

2. If these value systems are continued, Christians will become callous and greedy to practice every kind of uncleanness—God will give them over to a reprobate mind. (Romans 1, Colossian 1:21)

E. The only hope of helping people is to demonstrate a wholly different set of values.

F. You must not live like the Gentiles because you need not live like them.

1. In Christ, you have a different way of thinking.

2. You have found in Jesus Christ the truth about your life, the world, etc.

3. The Christian does not need to walk in uncertainty about truth.

4. The truth sets us free and tears away the veils of illusion.

5. Not all that a worldly person thinks is wrong because God's truth is in the world, but it is indistinguishable from truth until it is laid alongside Jesus.

G. Our witness.

1. The truth in Jesus is that there is adequacy for any situation because God has put you right there—the world needs to see this.

2. We are always to witness and tell what we are, for what we are is what Christ is.

Application questions:

1. How is man's thinking shown to be darkened today? Be specific.

2. How can a Christian fall into the worldly ways of thinking? How might he find freedom?

3. How can you maintain a witness to the world in the way you think? Give a couple of examples.
