

WEEK 4

WITNESS WITH WISDOM

UNITING HEAD
& HABITS

AUGUST 22 2021

ROMANS 7:19, 22-25; HEBREWS 5:11-14
PASTOR PHIL WARD

SERMON OUTLINE NOTES

I. AN INTENTIONAL PURSUIT OF WISDOM (PROVERBS 3:5-8, 13)

- A. The expressive individualist seeks to discover meaning in one's own concept of self rather than any external authority
- B. The wisdom and understanding that God gives is life-giving (**Proverbs 3:8, 13**)
 - 1. God-given wisdom is not discovered within, but received (**Proverbs 3:5-7**)
 - 2. God is gracious and lavish with His wisdom (**James 1:5; Proverbs 2:3-6**)
- C. In an age of distraction there is great need for knowledge, discernment, and wisdom

II. EXPRESSED BELIEFS EFT UNPRACTICED

- A. The rise of signaling our beliefs is an evidence of expressive individualism
 - 1. We feel a moral urgency to declare our position because it reflects our identity
 - 2. We often choose our beliefs based not what is true, but on what will grant us a sense of self-fulfillment
- B. Our signaled beliefs can serve as a cover for a lack of practicing our beliefs (**Matthew 5:16; 6:1**)

III. UNITING OUR HEADS AND HABITS THROUGH CONSTANT PRACTICE

- A. Our minds and habits do not always align, but Christ provides what we need (**Romans 7:19, 22-25**)
 - 1. At times our desires do not match our behaviors (**Romans 7:19**), and there is a constant struggle (**Romans 7:22-25**)
 - 2. We are delivered through Christ (**Romans 7:24-25**)
- B. Habits are small patterns that produce great results in our lives (**Hebrews 5:11-14**)
 - 1. Our habits form us whether we recognize it or not
 - 2. Our desires are shaped by our habits
- C. Adopting habits must begin with a recognition of our limits, and an embrace of discipline (**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**)

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. What is the benefit of intentionally pursuing godly wisdom? Why is godly wisdom more trustworthy than self-reliant wisdom?

2. How does signaling our beliefs reveal expressive individualism? How can signaling our beliefs cover for a lack of practicing our beliefs?

3. What is a habit? Why are habits significant aspects of our lives? How do habits affect us?

4. In adopting habits, what role does a realization our limitations serve? Why is it beneficial to embrace our limits and pursue discipline?

5. Brainstorm a list of habits in your life. Analyze how those habits affect you. What habits do you have that help you grow in Christ? What habits could you adopt to help you grow you in Christ?

ROMANS 7:19

For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

ROMANS 7:22-25

For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.