

Connecting with God: The Intellectual Heart

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – April 25, 2010

John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Rom 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

The Intellectual Heart...

1. CONNECTS WITH GOD THROUGH STUDY

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Study:

- Convicts you
- Energizes you
- Encourages you
- Grows you
- Holds you accountable

The Intellectual Heart...

2. MUST HAVE MIND FULLY CONVINCED BEFORE HEART CAN FOLLOW

Rom 12:2 "be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

The Intellectual Heart...

3. SPIRITUALLY MATURES THROUGH STUDY

1 Peter 2:2

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

1 Cor 3:1-2

1 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly-mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

Heb 5:11-6:1

11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity...

The Intellectual Heart...

4. CAN BE VULNERABLE TO:

- A "Show Me" faith (ex. Thomas)
- Struggling with Unanswerable questions

God is not afraid of our honest questions—but ultimately we must trust in Him through faith.

John 20:27-29

27 Then [Jesus] said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Heb 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Rom 8:24

Hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?

2 Cor 4:18

We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.