

**Shema Series**  
**Intellectual Conversion**  
**05/20/23**  
**Newport News**

**Opening**

(plug soccer game 6/17) Lionsbridge vs. DC United

**(show 4 quadrants...are you a believer or a follower?)**

- Devil believes
- Biblical belief: submitted, surrendered, in, on, for...

**Recap**

**-I want the reflex of my heart to be one of obedience to God!**

**-rebellious - reluctant - reflexive**

**-One of the four most telling measures of spiritual maturity is my Shema!**

**-(show the Shema diagram)**

**Intellectual Conversion**

-book entitled Moses in Pharaoh's House...

**-Intellectual Conversion involves taking responsibility for the truth or falsity of one's beliefs by examining them and testing them.**

**-“Intellectual conversion requires one to adopt an attitude of contrite fallibleness that acknowledges the limited nature of one's personal view of the world.”**

**-“People who are actively engaged in an ongoing process of intellectual conversion exhibit a love of truth that transcends any particular belief they might have.”**

-Mark 12:30 (ref) (there is no Shema without an Intellectual Conversion!)

## Truth is Undefeated

### -Psalm 119:160

*>Confident Pluralism does not mean we are okay with everyone having their own version of truth! Confident Pluralism means we are accepting of others who believe differently in order to create an environment for "the truth" of any matter to reveal itself!*

*>The best way to be heard is not by being louder. The best way to be heard is to listen.*

*>Truth doesn't need your vote to be right, but it does rely on your influence to spread...protect your voice!*

### -Am I earning the right to be heard by listening intently to others?

- **Truth and knowledge are different!**
- Love creates an environment where truth can challenge knowledge safely!
- **(talk about being a dynamic space)**

## Truth is Learned

-John 16:13 (ref John 8:31-32)

**>Because truth and falsities are learned, I must acknowledge that there are some things I presently believe to be true that are in fact false!**

-1 Corinthians 13:9-12

*>1 Corinthians 12 precedes chapter 13 because Paul is teaching us that one of the ways we deal with our imperfect knowledge is through diversity. Here he speaks of diversity that comes from spiritual gifts. Arrogance narrows my community while diversity expands my community...avoid the echo chamber!*

### -Am I courageous enough to test my truth with diverse relationships?

*>the more ideological a community is, the less diverse it tends to be because people don't like their ideas and beliefs to be challenged!*

*>Churches were always intended by God to be expectations...!!!!*

## **Truth is Forgiving**

*-If you can't be kind and gentle, be quiet and listen!*

**-Colossians 3:13-14**

**-Am I patient and humble and forgiving of others as their relationship with truth matures?**

-(Talk about exceptions to kind and gentle...it must never be about you feeling better. There is a **time to be menacing but it must be because that is what the other person needs** because they are in danger spiritually or physically or because their influence is leading others astray)

-When you are at odds with someone...ask these questions.

- **Can I support their motivation?**
- **Can I respect their process?**
- **Can I celebrate their character?**
- **Can I trust their friendship?**

## **Band (Intellectual Conversion Definition)**

**-Do I tend to see everything in life as either being right or wrong?**

**-Do I deal well with diversity of opinion, even when it is in an area of great concern for me?**

**-Do I consider other points of view before making a judgment?**

**-How many fundamental shifts in thinking have I undergone in life? In the last year?**

Close