

Shema Series
Intellectual Conversion
05/22/21
Newport News

Opening

-(talk about Imago Dei expressed through the creative arts, not being modern...we are being ancient!)

-This series...

Recap

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

-rebellious - reluctant - reflexive

-(show the Shema diagram) (talk about this being a heart renovation)

-conversion simply means to change...

-Mark 4:38-41...nature can't help but obey!

-Mark 3:11-12...demons can't help but obey!

-Are oceans and demons doing a better job with obedience than I am?

-(point back to the diagram) - (Don Gelpi credit)

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

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 (there is no Shema without an Intellectual Conversion!)

Truth is Undefeated (1of4)

-Psalm 119:160 (Claire’s spoken word)

>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?

-Matthew 24:35

- Truth and knowledge are different!
- Love creates an environment where truth can challenge knowledge safely!

Truth is Learned (2of4)

-John 16:13

-John 8:31-32

-1 Corinthians 2:13-16

>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?

-Proverbs 27:17

Truth is Forgiving (3of4)

-If you can't be kind and gentle, be quiet and listen! (explain difference between dealing with a person and dealing with an issue)

-Colossians 3:13-14

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

-Matthew 16:21-24 (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.)

Truth is Complicated (4of4)

-We aren't talking hear about clear moral and doctrinal positions...

- 10 Commandments
- Timeless didactic texts
- Sins that lead to death
- Orthodox beliefs

-Open Handed Beliefs

- Consumption of alcohol
- Limits on women in ministry
- Spiritual language for everyone
- Tithing a New Testament principle
- Sunday only day for worship
- Teenage dating
- Divorce and remarriage
- How people vote politically

-(this point is about how both people might be right even when their respective conclusions are incongruous)

-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?**

-Romans 14: universal morality, matters of conscience, forgoing liberty

-Am I someone who tends to impose my conscience on others?

-(Undefeated, Learned, Forgiving, and Complicated)

Shema

-(go back to the chart).

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Band

-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

-how about those baptisms...

-By grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone!