

## **Ephesians 4.17-19**

## **“Picture of a Pagan”**

v. 17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God  
Ephesians 2.19

### **1. Dark Minds**

#### **a. Intellect**

v. 17 “futility of their thinking”

v. 18 “darkened in their understanding...ignorance that is in them”

Romans 1.28 “gave them over to a depraved mind”

Colossians 1.21 “enemies in your minds”

#### **b. Ignorance**

v. 18 “because of the ignorance that is in them”

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4.4

Romans 1.22 “although they claimed to be wise, they became fools”

#### **c. Influence**

v. 20 “you did not come to know Christ in that way”

v. 23 “made new in the attitude of your minds”

Romans 12.2 “transformed by the renewing of your mind”

2 Corinthians 10.5 “We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

John 8.32 “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

## 2. Hard Hearts

### a. Result

v. 18 “due to the hardening of their hearts”

Romans 1.21 “For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

Proverbs 4.23 “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

### b. Rejection

Romans 1.23 “exchanged...”

Romans 1.25 “exchanged the truth...”

Romans 1.26 “because of this, God gave them over...”

Romans 1.28 “God gave them over...”

Exodus 4.21 “The LORD said to Moses, “...see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.”

Exodus 7.13,22 “Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said... Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

Exodus 8.15 “when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said”

Exodus 8.19 “The magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.”

Exodus 8.32 “But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.”

Exodus 9.7 “Pharaoh sent men to investigate and found that not even one of the animals of the Israelites had died. Yet his heart was unyielding and he would not let the people go.”

Exodus 9.12 “But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses.”

Exodus 9.35 “So Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the LORD had said through Moses.”

Exodus 10.1,2 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the LORD."

Exodus 10.20 "But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go."

Exodus 10.27 "But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go."

Exodus 11.10 "Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country."

Exodus 14.4 "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD."

Exodus 14.8 "The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites"

Exodus 15.4 "Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea."

Exodus 25.2 "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give."

1 Corinthians 10.11 "These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come."

### c. Renewal

Ezekiel 36.26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

Psalms 24.3,4 "Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false."

Psalms 51.10 "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

1 Timothy 1.5 "The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

2 Timothy 2.22 "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

## 3. Perverse Wills

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. Psalm 14.1

a. Given Themselves

v. 19 "given themselves over to sensuality"

Romans 6.13 "do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness"

b. Lost Themselves

v. 19 "with a continual lust for more"

2 Timothy 2.26 "the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will"

John 8.34,36 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin...So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."