

Living FROM THE CROSS

LESSON NOTES

Text: Jn.14:15-17 ; 25,26 ; 16:12,13

- Key Vs: 16:13—the Spirit of Truth will **guide** you into all Truth. (One destination)

Q. What is God's intended destination for us? Where is the Spirit leading us to?

Q. What is the Truth?

Q. What is our assumed starting point?

Q. How is it, then, that we find ourselves in so many different positions of belief?

Q. Could it be that we have come to some of our positions of faith by some other influences?

Q. What might some of those influences be?

1. The Influence of an Authority Figure.

- a. We all come into this world like new computers. We have a hard drive but no data. Then we're programmed by our parents, teachers, religion, culture and experiences.
 - i. I believe _____ because _____.
 - ii. E.g.—Christian Foundations class. "Is man a body & soul, or body, soul & spirit?"
- b. Dangerous way to get to truth—"Beware of false prophets and teachers...Many will follow them..." ~ Matt 24:11
- c. Consider the Bereans—Acts 17:10,11

Q. What do YOU believe, and how did you come to believe it?

2. The Influence of the Majority.

a. If so many believe it, it must be true."

- Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world today.

Q. Can you think of a time in history when the majority was wrong?

- Mark Twain, "Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, its time to pause and reflect."
- "All we like sheep..." E.g. Weber's restaurant

Q. "I'm just a sinner saved by grace." T or F?

3. The Influence of Predisposition

Q. Define "predisposition".

- Story of Doug _ debating a doctrinal position.
- E.g. Jonathan and his predisposition! - **fixed mind set**

Reflection: Do you go where the Scriptures lead you, or do you use the Scriptures to support your predispositions?

4. The Influence of Tradition

- **Tradition** - "a way of thinking passed down to us by our forefathers."
- Jesus regularly confronted traditional thinking. - Mk 7:8 - "You have let go of the commands of God and are teaching as doctrines your own human traditions."
- E.g. - Brother's position regarding "tent making."

Q. Would breaking with tradition violate your conscience?

5. The Influence of the Experience.

- a. Sometimes we are driven (not led) to take a position on a matter because of a **bad experience** or a **personal failure**.
 - E.g.—“Relationships don’t work! I’ll never get close to others again...I’ll never be under the authority of another person again...I don’t believe the gifts of the Spirit are for today. I’ve seen many false demonstrations and abuses...I don’t believe in divine healing because I’ve prayed for people, and they weren’t healed...All men are dogs!”
- b. Experience—whether negative or positive—does not determine truth.

Q. Is there a position of belief you’ve come to because of a negative experience?

CONCLUSION:

Know what you believe and know why you believe it. Go where the Scriptures lead you.

The problem is the majority of Christians I've known are living to achieve what the Cross has already accomplished.

This teaching on Living from the Cross is going to challenge what you believe about the immediate effects of the Cross on your life. Beginning with this statement,

"We are already what we seek to be and where we want to be in God, because of the Cross."