



## Part 3 of 3: *Double Blind*

### APPETIZER: How Religion Makes Us Blind

#### RELIGIOUS CHRISTIANITY....

1. Emphasises Scriptures that point to the bad in our hearts.  
**Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:20-23**
2. While deemphasizing Scriptures that point to the good in our hearts.  
**Romans 2:14-15; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 10:14-16**  
**Deuteronomy 30!**  
**Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1-3; 9:5-6; James 3:9**
3. And functionally ignoring the biblical teaching that the human heart is made new through Christ.  
**Romans 2:28-29; Ezekiel 36:26-27; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21; Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 10:16; Isaiah 30:21; Romans 8; Galatians 5**

#### RELIGION'S LINGUISTIC SEXISM...

1. Religious people tend to embrace the idea that women listen more to their "heart" (emotion), and men listen more to their "head" (reason).
2. Religious people also tend to embrace the maxim that the human "heart" is deceitful and can't be trusted. (Not much is said about the human mind/brain.)
3. Therefore, this reinforces the idea that women are more easily deceived because women operate out of their heart more than their head, which confirms that they should not be in leadership.

All of this gets multiple things wrong:

- a. Men and woman use both reason and emotion.
- b. In the Bible, "hearts" are not the seat of emotion anyway.
- c. Intuition (often attributed more to women) may be a kind of rapid, subconscious *reasoning* more than merely *feeling* one's way.
- d. Our hearts are made new in Christ!

### DINE IN: Believing is Seeing

John 9:35-41; Hebrews 5:11-6:3

#### JESUS AS SAVIOUR VS JUDGE...

John 3:17; 5:22, 27, 45-46; 9:39; 12:47-48

#### THE HEALED MAN'S JOURNEY. TO HIM, JESUS IS...

Jesus the man (v. 11) → Prophet (v. 17) → From God (v. 33) → Lord (v. 38)

### TAKE OUT: Doing Our Spiritual Cardio

Hebrews 5:11-6:3  
John 7:37-38

#### HOW JESUS-FOLLOWERS MAKE DECISIONS...

1. Come to Jesus for life and healing. (Faith & Baptism)
2. Soak in his teaching. (Bible & Church)
3. Listen to your own changed heart. (Meditation & Stillness)
4. Make mistakes and learn from them. (Action & Assessment)
5. Rinse and Repeat.

... together!

#### FOR FURTHER READING:

- Timothy R. Jennings, *The God Shaped Brain / The God Shaped Heart*
- Andrew Newberg and Mark Robert Waldman, *How God Changes Your Brain: Breakthrough Findings from a Leading Neuroscientist*
- Andrew Newberg, *Neurotheology: How Science Can Enlighten Us About Spirituality*

#### FOR WATCHING

- Netflix series: *Messiah*

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. After reviewing the sermon, talk about anything that stood out to you in this message.

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **John 9:35-41**.
  - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
  - b. Think back over the whole chapter. Who do you relate to more in this story?
    - i. The blind man early on – after an encounter with Jesus you are open and learning.
    - ii. The neighbours – unsure of what's going on and trying to figure things out.
    - iii. The parents – fearful of religion's power and judgement.
    - iv. The Pharisees – doubtful that Jesus is from God in any special way.
    - v. The blind man later on – convinced Jesus is Lord.
  - c. Jesus first noticed this man outside the Temple, then found him after being forced outside the synagogue. Who are some people today who might be the "outsiders" Jesus is looking for? Do you pursue them in any way?
  - d. Notice the man's progression of faith, from "man" to "prophet" to being "from God" to "Lord" worthy of worship. What do you think the man's worship was like in that moment? How do you worship Jesus?
  - e. Do you think Jesus holds out hope in **verse 41** for people who have never believed in him? What other Bible passages would support your opinion?
3. Read **Hebrews 5:11-6:3**.
  - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
  - b. Have you ever been in the position described in **verse 11**?
  - c. Using the rest of the passage, talk about how the author flips the popular notion on its head, that using the Bible to learn complicated theology is "going deeper" and using it to help us live more righteous lives is more "surface".

### HUDDLE [Making it Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Use your huddle questions. Talk about what God has been showing you, and pray for one another.