

Week Seven: "Stinky Thinking"

Day One: "Futility"

Read and review memory work (Read Ephesians 4:1-16 five times, recite Ephesians 4:1-16 once).

Reflect: Make a quick list of all the ways that your thinking has changed as a result of following Jesus.

Dig: The word "so" is meant as a signal to continue the thought of verses 14-17 with what follows. What is the main thought that Paul wants to continue?

What phrase does Paul use to indicate that he is very serious about what he is saying here?

Who are we supposed to not live like?

The word "Gentiles" (Greek=ethnos) can have one of three meanings: a) Greeks, b) non-Jews, or c) all people who are not Jesus-followers. In your understanding, which of three meanings are intended in this verse? (see I Thessalonians 4:5).

What does Paul notice about their thinking?

What are some synonyms of the word "futility"?

Apply: List some foolish or futile ways that people think, but dishonor Christ and the calling that God has placed on their lives. Are you tempted to take up these ways as part of your thinking?

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Day Two: "What Causes Stinky Thinking"

Read: Ephesians 4:17-19 and review memory work (Read Ephesians 4:1-16 five times, recite Ephesians 4:1-16 once).

Reflect: In your experience and understanding, how are sin and ignorance related to each other?

Dig: The Greek word behind "darkened" is a perfect participle, indicating a continuing condition of spiritual darkness. What is this darkness of understanding coupled with?

How does John 1:5 add to your understanding of this concept?

According to this text, what is the cause of their darkness, ignorance, and separation from God?

How does Romans 1:21-24 contribute to your understanding of this biblical concept?

According to 2 Corinthians 4:4, how does Satan make this ignorance problem even worse?

Apply: In this space, compose a prayer asking Christ to lead you into battle against ignorance today. That is, ask him to soften your heart.

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Day Three: "The Downward Slide"

Read: Ephesians 4:17-19 and review memory work (Read Ephesians 4:1-16 five times, recite Ephesians 4:1-16 once).

Reflect: What sins have you committed, which at first bothered your conscience, but after awhile did not bother you at all?

Dig: According to this text, is sensitivity to sin and its effects something we are born with?

If so, how do we lose this sensitivity?

According to the Bible, how do our consciences become scarred with tissue that is not sensitive to wrong? See 1Timothy 4:2 and Titus 1:15.

According to Matthew 13: 18-23, taking the soil as an image for our heart, how does the relative hardness of our heart relate to our ability to hear God's Word? In other words, how are the first three hearts described?

Apply: Taking a measure of the hardness or softness of your heart and based on a reading of Matthew 13:18-23, which soil are you?

Week Seven: "Stinky Thinking"
Day Four: "The cost of Impurity"

Read: Ephesians 4:17-19 and review memory work (Read Ephesians 4:1-16 five times, recite Ephesians 4:1-16 once).

Reflect: How would you describe a person who has given themselves over to sensuality? In other words, what is a lifestyle like of someone who lives for their own pleasure?

Dig: Look up 2 Peter 2:10-12 and write down two of the lines that are used to describe people who give themselves over to sensuality.

According to this text, does impurity remain confined to one area of life once you have started down that pathway?

According to the text we are studying today, are sensuality and greed related? If so, how?

What happens to the heart of a person who practices impurity and always wants more?

How does this text answer the claim of the pornography industry that pornography really doesn't hurt anyone?

Apply: How can your "crap detector" be sharpened today so that you are not taken in by the media's presentation of the sensual and greedy life as the good life? According to this text, how should the lifestyles of the rich and famous be accurately described?

Week Seven: "Stinky Thinking"
Day Five: Memory Work

Read: Ephesians 4:1-19

Recite verse 16.

Recite Ephesians 4:1-6 (look at your bible if necessary)

Read Ephesians 4:17-19 10 times out loud

Recite the verses out loud from memory.

You are done for the day.