

WHO HIJACKED MY BRAIN?

Part 4 of WHO AM I? 2 Corinthians 10:1-6, Various.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. October 9, 2022.

LET'S GET CYNICAL

It's a battle to stand firm in our true identity.

Cynicism isn't a great attitude, but it's essential. Why?

Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV) The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Don't automatically trust every thought.

See 2 Corinthians 4:4 and John 8:44.

WHO HIJACKED MY BRAIN?

Brain hijacking is the cause of identity confusion.

Colossians 2:8 (ESV) See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Today, there are philosophies aimed at hijacking our brains.

- Scientism: We're accidents of time plus chance.
- Expressive Individualism: We have the final say about our identity.
- They are based on deceit, human traditions, and elemental spirits.

There is no neutrality. We're in a battle for the mind.

FIGHT BACK!

The false apostles/teachers in ancient Corinth.

The apostle Paul fought back with the weapons of truth.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (ESV) For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

- This is how to win the battle for the mind:

1. I must depend on God - verse 3.

- Prayer is a supernatural resource.
- The Bible is God's power at our fingertips.
- Faith is an overlooked weapon.

"One of the greatest revelations of my life is: I can choose my thoughts and think things on purpose. In other words, I don't have to just think about whatever falls into my mind" (Joyce Meyer, *The Battle for the Mind*).

2. I must decide to fight - verse 4.

- Paul uses military language - besieging a fortress - stronghold.
- Example: The Roman siege of the stronghold of Masada in 73-74 AD.
- It takes determination to attack the strongholds in our minds.

3. I must destroy the lies - verse 5.

- Take aim at the arguments, opinions, thoughts. They are lies.
- Capture and destroy every lie with the weapons of truth.

BE INTENTIONAL

Today's teaching matters for the glory of God and the gospel.

Today's teaching is powerless theory until we apply it.

If I choose to live in the self-defeating thought-world, then ...

- Do nothing.
- Misery is guaranteed.

If I choose to live in the life-giving thought-world of truth, then ...

- Fight. Be vigilant. Pray always.
- Ask for more grace to truly believe and submit to Bible truths.
- Get a copy of the WHO AM I? list.
- Ask the Holy Spirit for a reality check, thought audit.
- Write down every stronghold - lie, deception, distortion.
- Write down the truths that capture and destroy the lies. Use the WHO AM I? List and other passages such as Ephesians 1-2.
- Ask for enabling, sanctifying, grace so I receive and live in the truth.

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Start Talking. Get the conversation going.

- What are some things people have said about you - true or false?

Start Thinking. Review Sunday's teaching.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching changed your thinking about identity?
- What does Paul's military language in 2 Corinthians 10 communicate about the battle for our minds?
- Why are the glory of God, Christ, and the gospel at stake in Colossians 2:8?
- Why do we not have the final say about our identity?

Start Sharing. Apply Sunday's teaching.

- What truth about your identity in Christ has had the most impact on your life?
- Practically speaking, share how you are fighting the battle for your mind.
- What lies about identity, Christ, or the Christian faith do you hear or read about at work or in the media? What truths would capture and destroy them?

Start Praying. Be bold.

Father, the battle for our minds is real and it is fierce. Thank you for the saving grace that opened our hearts to the truth about Christ and the gospel and freed us from our bondage to lies and distortions. Please continue to give us enabling grace to combat unhelpful and harmful thoughts that crowd into our minds. Help us fill our minds with glorious, powerful, biblical, Christ-exalting truth. Praise you! Amen!

Keep Reading. In preparation for next Sunday.

- Read chapters 10 and 11 of Victory Over the Darkness.