



## Winning the Mind Wars Part 3

### Believer's—Going from Carnal to Corrupt

#### Personally

- Ephesians 4:17
  - Paul's warning to not live with a carnal mind
- Ephesians 4:22
  - The carnal, natural mind, if it is not kept in check with the truth of God, will become (grow) corrupt!
    - **Grows:** It's a process, growing in intensity and slow enough to not be easily noticed.
    - **Corrupt:** To wither, spoil, and decay.
    - **Through deceitful lusts:** "Delusional longings" are thoughts not based on God's Truth or reality. It's an unholy fantasy world for anything outside of God's will.
  - The carnal mind grows corrupt as we marinate, and validate delusional longings! We need to STOP!

#### In The Church

- 2 Peter 2:12-15
  - Through deception and corruption they've forsaken the right way (abandoned it), gone astray (wandered from safety of Truth), and they also entice other unstable people.
    - 2 Timothy 3:8
      - Truth is manifested and they resist and oppose Truth when it's before them. They have corrupt minds (Paul uses a second and different word for corrupt than he used in Ephesians 4:22. This one means, "Spoiled entirely").
    - 1 Timothy 6:3-5.
      - Paul uses a third different word for corruption. This level of corruption means, "Thoroughly rotten." Corrupt minds are destitute of truth, pridefully reject truth, obsessed with arguing, envy, strife, reviling, and evil suspicions.
  - The more people marinate and validate delusional longings, the more they will wander from truth. The more people wander from truth, more they will oppose the truth. The more they oppose truth, the more destitute of truth they become. The more destitute they become, the closer they get to having a thoroughly rotten and corrupt mind.
- 2 Corinthians 11:3

#### The Safety Net

- Hebrews 3:12-13
  - We need to be in trusted, truth-speaking spiritual relationships with fellow believers, and encourage one another so that delusional longings don't make us hardened (stubborn) toward the things of God. There is safety and wisdom in a multitude of Christ-centered counselors (Proverbs 15:22).

### Unbelievers—Going from Corrupt to Darkened to Debased

- Romans 1:18–20
  - Unbelievers suppress the truth that is inside of them and never give it a chance. They are without excuse!
- Romans 1:21
  - They are unsubmissive, unthankful, worthless thinkers. Their foolish minds are darkened!
- Romans 1:22
  - People become a fool through the process of suppressing truth, validating worthless thoughts, and steadily, having a darkened mind.
- Romans 1:23
  - Foolish, darkened minds create and worship a god made in their own image instead of living as worshipping, thankful creations made in the image of God!
- Romans 1:24
  - "God gave them up," This is the first of three times Paul uses this phrase. He's making a sobering point. They crossed a line that gets God's attention at a new level.
- Romans 1:25
  - They move from suppressing truth to exchanging it for a lie. The steady decline of the mind is beyond obvious.
- Romans 1:26–27
  - Corrupt humanity plows through every road block. Their behavior becomes more wicked as God gives them up for the unholy actions they crave and demand to do.
- Romans 1:28
  - They suppressed truth, exchanged truth for lie, and now rejected God's attempts to change their minds. God gave them over to debased mind. He says, "You want it, you got it." Lost minds become debased. They are useless for the things of God.
- Romans 1:29–31
  - All unrighteousness is unleashed through a debased mind that has plowed through every road block and rejected God at every turn.
- Romans 1:32
  - Amazingly, these debased minds know God is going to judge them, but they are so far gone they continue their practices and celebrate each other's heinous actions with pride!

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### Where's God's Forgiveness?

- The issue isn't God's forgiveness if they repent.
- The issue is a person becoming so far gone through continual, rebellious, sinful choices that they end up with a debased mind and they don't care if they are ever forgiven by Him or not!
  - The Example of Pharaoh
    - Exodus 7:14: Hard heart
    - Exodus 7:22: His heart grew harder
    - Exodus 8:15: Pharaoh hardened his own heart
    - Exodus 8:32: Pharaoh hardened his heart

- Exodus 9:7: His heart became hard
- Exodus 9:12: The LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart.
- Exodus 9:34-35: In response to the LORD, Pharaoh hardened his heart.
- Exodus 10:20, 27; 11:10: LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart.
- God gave Pharaoh several chances to change his mind and his actions. Pharaoh does not and God hardens his heart and mind beyond repair.
  - Genesis 6:3
  - Proverbs 29:1

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### Closing Thoughts

- **America:** Our current culture has blasted through a corrupt and darkened mind, We can only hope we haven't yet received a debased mind.
- **Believers:** Don't let your minds grow corrupt through delusional longings, forsaking the right way, wandering from safety of the Truth. Engage in trusting, truth-telling, encouraging relationships.
- **Unbelievers:** Quit suppressing the truth. Stop worthless thinking. Quit worshiping a god you've created in your own image. Don't exchange the truth of God for Satan's lie. Quit rejecting God's attempts to tell you the truth, and stop hardening your heart and mind against God. Remember, it is possible to be "too late."
- **Everyone:** Cry out to God where necessary!