



HOAW Newsletter

“Now this I say and testify to the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.” Ephesians 4:17

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HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

Arrogant Ignorance

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Vance Havner, an itinerant evangelist now with the Lord, said, “It is bad enough to be ignorant when it can’t be helped; it is a thousand times worse to be ignorant on purpose.”¹ I have always been a peripheral observer of our culture trying to make sense of the nonsensical. In my lifetime I have seen a gradual decline of logical reasoning. Often, when listening to politicians, celebrities, and other self-proclaimed authorities spewing comments lacking any coherence or basis in objective truth, I shake my head in amazement how they could possibly come to the conclusions they do. Not only do their remarks seem illogical lacking any real

support for their argument, they are arrogant about their ignorance.

In an article originally written in 2017 titled “The Dangers of Arrogant Ignorance,” Jonah Goldberg, Senior Fellow and Asness Chair in Applied Liberty, observed that “political polarization is fueled by plain old ignorance.” He further states, “ignorance means is that you lack knowledge about something. Ignorance isn’t necessarily something to be proud of, but it need not be a cause for embarrassment or shame, either. The problem is that ignorance, being the absence of knowledge, is a vacuum, and nature abhors a vacuum. “The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance; it is the illusion of knowledge,” Daniel Boorstin, one of my favorite historians, once noted. It is a common human foible to think you know more than you do and to assume

that when someone, particularly someone you don’t like, says something you don’t understand that the fault must be in the speaker, not the listener. “It’s a universal law — intolerance is the first sign of an inadequate education,” observed Alexander Solzhenitsyn. “An ill-educated person behaves with arrogant impatience, whereas truly profound education breeds humility.”²

In a blog, *Progressfocused*, the author, Coert Visser, offers advice on how to deal with the arrogant yet ignorant state of mind.³ He makes the following observation, “Because we may be unaware of our ignorance, we may feel very confident of our untrue beliefs. The confidence we feel about the truth of our beliefs is a rather unreliable indicator of their truthfulness. When we have no other means of determining the validity of our beliefs

¹ Vance Havner, *In times Like These*, p.12 (1969).

² <https://www.aei.org/articles/the-dangers-of-arrogant-ignorance/>

³ <http://www.progressfocused.com/2015/08/how-to-deal-with-arrogant-yet-ignorant.html>

than our own subjective confidence that they are true, we may become arrogant while we are also ignorant.”

The spontaneity of Twitter and the myriad of opinion platforms on TV showcase, in bold relief, the prevalent disease of arrogant ignorance. The supplanting of axiomatic truth with relative truth further intensifies the problem.

In my opinion, the source of the problem rests on two causes; the blindness perpetuated by the Enemy over our fallen world and the unwillingness of those who know better to call out arrogant ignorance. When sin goes unabated, its shrill voice grows louder. I believe the Enemy is increasing his efforts to impair our vision of objective truth and lead us to support untruths, a new form of bondage. Independence from our Creator and His truth produces dependence on the world and its darkened ideologies.

The Road to Darkness

As followers of Christ, we are not immune to the malady of arrogant ignorance. In fact, Scripture describes the road to arrogant ignorance in Ephesians 4:17-19.

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

Paul insists: He doesn't ask, he doesn't plead, he isn't addressing them on his own authority. He insists on what he's about to tell them *in the Lord's name!*

No longer live as the Gentiles: in "godlessness and wickedness of men

who suppress the truth by their wickedness (Rom 1:18)"; in the pattern of our previous life; in a manner that shows no distinction from what was to was is or should be; inconsistent with our new nature; in the squalor of our self-sufficiency; in the sinful habits of our past.

In the futility of their thinking: in emptiness, transiency, depravity of mind, uselessness;

Romans 1:21-23 *For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. (NIV)*

Thinking ... Hearts (18) ... Minds (23): these words are used interchangeably in the OT/NT to mean the very core of our being; who we really are when all the layers (defenses, callouses, experiences, protections, environmental conditioning) are peeled away; the seat of our **beliefs, values, attitudes, and motives; what we believe, what we esteem, what we perceive, what we are driven by.**

"It's not what you do that determines who you are, but who you are (in Christ) that determines what you do".
Neil Anderson

HEART/MIND: man's entire mental and moral activity, both the rational and the emotional elements; the real man; the seat of reflective consciousness, comprising the faculties of perception and understanding, and those of feeling, judging and determining. Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

The gradual road to ignorance and ultimately to darkness begins with progressive and incremental compromises. We begin to take our faith for granted and loosen our

spiritual discipline. More specifically, we become lazy Christians. We give short shrift to our devotional life, make concessions to our sinful desires, avoid accountability, and become inattentive to our spiritual development. We stop learning and growing in the Lord.

This road to unraveling our faith follows a predictable pattern outlined in Ephesians 4:18: the hardening of our hearts leading to desensitization, and a darkened understanding leading to a distorted worldview, which produces a growing ignorance dulling our awareness of the truth. This in turn, leads to increasing absences from worship and fellowship that "alienates" from the life of God. We stop going to church and being with other Christians. We begin to conjure up reasons for removing ourselves from these life-giving sources. We are playing right into the hands of the Enemy the devil who prowls about probing our defenses, looking for our weaknesses, seeking out his prey (1 Peter 5:8).

Ephesians 4:19 describes the next steps on the road to darkness. Our hearts become "callous" leading us away from our faith. We begin to rely entirely on our senses – what we can actually see, hear, and touch for our basis of reality. This accommodation leads to gradual immersion in "sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity."

So, I don't think it is too much of a stretch to see how arrogant ignorance (or futile thinking as the Apostle Paul calls it) happens to secular mindsets in general and believers in particular.

1. **Hardness of the Heart**
2. **Darkened Understanding**
3. **Growing Ignorance**
4. **Separation from the Life of God**
5. **Consuming Sensuality**
6. **Futile Thinking**

How can we get off this road? How can this disintegration be stopped?

How can the malady of arrogant ignorance be remedied?

The Road to Light

Acknowledgement, submission, repentance, and confession is the only response that can halt the downward spiral and prevent the disintegration of our character and integrity. Ephesians 4:20-24 presents the solution to our dilemma.

*20 You, however, did not come to **know** Christ that way. 21 Surely you **heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.***

To know Christ that way ... Christ is the subject matter of our education.⁴ **Heard of Him ...** hearing with a goal of understanding; in other words, "you heard Him" not "heard of Him" - Jesus Himself being the teacher.

Taught in Him ... in accordance with the truth: Jesus is the very environment within which the learning takes place; **the path to right thinking** (and hence to right living) is through Jesus. Lasting behavioral change does not happen unless the belief system within the heart/mind is changed - the lies need to be replaced with the truth! **John 14:6** *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the **truth** and the **life**. No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 8:31-32** To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the **truth**, and the **truth** will set you free."*

*22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off** your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your **minds**; 24 and to*

put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Put off ... be made new ... put on: signifies a completed action (**aorist tense**). At conversion the Christian sheds (strips off) his/her old, ragged, filthy garments, and puts on a fresh, new set of clothes. We **put off** our old self through repentance and confession, **are being made new** (**present infinitive** - indicating the need for ongoing continual renewal) in the attitude of our minds through renewal and sanctification, and **put on** the new self through regeneration and justification.

Old self ... new self: Is it possible to have the old nature (old self) and the new nature (new self) reside in the same body at the same time? When we came into spiritual union with God through the new birth, we didn't **add** a new, divine nature to the old, sinful nature. We **exchanged** natures (the exchange occurs at conversion); we were changed from **darkness to light**, from **sinner to saint**; we are **no longer in Adam, we are in Christ**.

- Delivered us from the domain of **darkness**...transferred to the **kingdom of His Son** (Colossians 1:13)
- We are not in the **flesh**...but in the **Spirit** (Romans 8:9)
- You were formerly **darkness**...now you are **light** in the Lord (Ephesians 5:8)
- If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the **old** has passed away...behold **new** things have come (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Before we were by nature **children of wrath** (Ephesians 2:1-3)...now we are **partakers of the divine nature** (2 Peter 1:4)

In the attitude of your minds: the mind/heart (beliefs, values, attitudes, motives) must change before behavior changes; right thinking produces right living. **Romans 12:1-2** *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Created to be like God: partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). **Romans 8:29** *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **2 Corinthians 3:18** And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (NIV)*

CONCLUSION:

- **Don't live as you once did or as others still do!**
- **The downward spiral begins with compromise!**
- **Acknowledgement, submission, repentance, and confession is the only way up!**
- **Act in accordance with who you already are in Christ!**
- **Leave your tattered clothes behind, they don't fit anymore!**

⁴ Manthano: "to learn", "to increase one's knowledge," or "be increased in knowledge," "to learn by inquiry, or observation". In this case it

means "learning" Christ, not simply the doctrine of Christ, but Christ Himself, a process not merely of getting to know the person but of so applying the

knowledge as to walk differently from the rest of the world. (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

OTHER NEWS



Heart of a Warrior Ministries offers four journeys you can take to become who God

created you to be.

The Foundation (Ground Zero) helps establish strong biblical foundations for the battles ahead.

The Compass (Phase I) calibrates a warrior's heart and tunes that heart to the heart of God. I am currently leading 45 at Calvary Church WBL Campus on this journey.

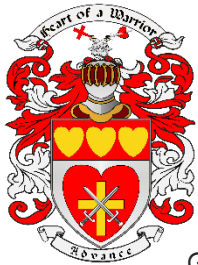
The Map (Phase II) helps men focus on what matters in accordance with their unique divine wiring.

The Guide (Phase III) develops the spiritual discipline of being mentored and mentoring others.

Go to our website for more details.

www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/

If you would like to contact me directly, email me at Greg@HeartofaWarrior.org



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