Discussion Questions

LifeGroups



Date: December 6, 2020

Sermon Series: Ugly Christmas Sweater Sermon Title: Overcoming Ugly Thoughts

Sermon Text: Various

Bottom Line

The truth of God, in the hands of a life fully surrendered to God, is a powerful force in defeating the lies of the evil one.

Scripture

Genesis 6:5 (NLT)

5 The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

John 1:12 (NLT)

12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

1 John 5:12 (NLT)

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.

1 Corinthians 2:15, 16b (NLT)

Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things... for we have the mind of Christ.

Peter 1:3-4 (ESV)

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Romans 8:5-8 (NLT)

5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. 6 So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. 7 For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. 8 That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

James 1:5-8 (NLT)

5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. 6 But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. 7 Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

Philippians 4:8-9 (NLT)

8 And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. 9 Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Gratitude, Prayer and Accountability

What happened this past week that you are grateful for? What would you like to prayer for today? How did God work in your life since the last time we were together? What is He doing through you as it relates to your Adopt 7?

Let's Start

This week, Pastor Dale began his *Ugly Christmas Sweater* series. Describe the ugliest piece of clothing in your closet. Why do you keep it?

Let's Talk

- 1. What is the relationship between our thoughts, ideas, and imagination?
- 2. What do Genesis 6:5, 2 Corinthians 4:4 and Ephesians 6:12 teach us about the battle for our minds?
- 3. What do John 1:12, 1 John 5:12, 2 Corinthians 2:15, 16b, and 2 Peter 1:3-4 teach us about the power of Christ to change our mind? How have you seen Christ impact your thought life?
- 4. Read Romans 8:5-8 and James 1:5-8. What do these verses teach us about being single-minded? What does it mean to be double-minded? Why is that so dangerous?
- 5. Philippians 4:8-9 teaches us some important truths about purity. What lessons do you see in these verses?
- 6. What are some of the ways that our enemy seeks to ruin our minds?
- 7. What solution does Romans 12:1-2 point to as it relates to our minds.

Let's Act

Pastor Dale ended his message by speaking about the destructive nature of pornography. Let's end our time tonight by agreeing to relentlessly pursue cutting out those things in our lives that the enemy wants to use to destroy us. Let's pray that we might be a group with renewed minds because of what Christ is doing in us.

Notes:			