

Lesson 4: Discussion

KEY POINT:

- 1) Bible is a higher authority than human tradition, experience, reason, or culture.
- 2) Bible alone is the standard by which everything else needs to be tested.

REASON: God created our brains capable reasoning and logic.

- Why is obedience to Christ in our thoughts important? (2 Corin. 10:3-6)
- Why is the fear of the Lord the beginning of wisdom? (Prov. 9:10; 1:7)

EXPERIENCE: Experiencing God's goodness and patience lead us to repentance (Romans 2:4). The kindness, goodness and mercy of God saves us and renews us (Titus 3:4-7).

- Why is it important that our faith be more than intellectual knowledge?
- In what ways can our experiences conflict with the Bible or mislead us in our faith?
- Why must we always test our experience through the Word of God?

CULTURE: Be careful what you love. The things of this world are the desires of the old nature. Sin has penetrated every aspect of human life (1 John 2:15–17).

- What does it mean that we should not love the things of the world?
- What impact does your culture have on your faith?
 - What examples can we find from your personal history in which culture greatly impacted your actions in a way that, looking back now, you see as negative?

TRADITION: Traditions connect us to important things and lessons from the past. They become dangerous when they go against or valued more highly than God's law. (Mark 7:1–13)

- How do we distinguish between the Word of God and human tradition?
 - Why is this important?
- How do you protect against the temptation to allow tradition to surpass the Word of God?
 - What role should tradition play in our church?

BIBLE: the ultimate source for spiritual matters (1 Timothy 4:1-7).

- What are the consequences when we do not accept the Bible as the standard by which we test all teachings and even our spiritual experience?