

Spiritual Discernment

Lesson 7: The Spirit of the Age
Springs Reformed Church
High School Class
April 12, 2015

Briefly review the main points from last week's lesson.

- Pride is an attitude of the heart that takes credit for one's blessings.
- Pride exalts man and depreciates God—which is idolatry.
- Proper “boasting” is acknowledging that everything comes from God.
- Gratitude cultivates humility—thanking God for your blessings.

The problem of pride is man placing himself at the middle of everything. When we reject God, we also reject his law (and vice versa!).

Read Romans 1:18-32. What do you think Paul is trying to say here?

Many unbelievers reject God on *intellectual* grounds—i.e., He is not necessary to explain the existence of the universe. What is the alternative explanation that many people embrace when they reject God? Where do such ideas come from?

How is “unbelief” portrayed in this passage? How does this passage describe the consequences which follow the choice of unbelief?

What is God's part in this passage?

What do you think Paul means when he talks about the unbeliever “knowing” God?

Rejecting God is a form of insanity because of the effect of unbelief on the heart and the mind.

Rejecting God is never an “intellectual” problem—it is a *moral* problem. Unbelievers are not persuaded by evidence. In fact, they believe *against* the evidence. (See Luke 16:19-31)

Man's “law” is not really law at all—it is a house without a foundation. Right and wrong are a matter of individual choice and/or social consensus. Nothing of a moral nature can ultimately be “settled” because social attitudes are constantly changing.

Relativism can be regarded as the “spirit of the age”—it is the philosophy that dominates society as a result of unbelief.

If relativism is true, then rationality is *dead*—and so is every kind of *knowledge*. Nothing can be known *objectively* or *rationally*.

What parallels can you see between the Romans 1 and modern society? What is the trajectory of a society divorced from God's law? How is the church complicit in the decline of moral standards?

What steps would you have to take in order to change society's attitudes toward homosexuality?