



# **How Your Heart Shapes Your Mind**

David Feddes

**Is your mind a machine?**



# What shapes your mind?

- **Your social setting:**  
Whom do you fit (or fight) with?
- **Your actions:**  
What is your pattern of behavior?
- **Your heart:**  
What moves your inner self?

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# Heart affects knowledge

- An intelligent heart acquires knowledge. (Proverbs 18:15)
- The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge. (Proverbs 15:14)
- Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. (Proverbs 4:23)
- My son, give me your heart. (Prov 23:26)
- Who can say, “I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin”? (Prov 20:9)



Your taste for a food item may change when your condition changes, even if the food is the same.



# Masters of Suspicion

- **Karl Marx** claimed that economic factors determine our thoughts and ideals.
- **Sigmund Freud** claimed that unconscious primal urges dominate our minds.
- **Friedrich Nietzsche** said that a will to power is the motivation behind claims to truth and morality.
- These atheists were wrong to reject God, but they were right to see that many claims to rightness are a mask for hidden drives.

## **Cosmic authority problem**

“I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God... It's that I hope there is no God! ... I have a cosmic authority problem... Darwin enabled modern secular culture to heave a great collective sigh of relief, by apparently providing a way to eliminate purpose, meaning, and design as fundamental features of the world.” (Thomas Nagel)



# Heart motives

*The heart has its reasons, of which reason knows nothing. (Pascal)*

- What desires move you?
- What worries or scares you?
- What are your inclinations?
- What makes you feel happy?
- What hidden hurts haunt you?
- What directs your decisions?

# Inner light or darkness

- The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all his innermost parts. (20:27)
- Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin. (21:4)
- If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! (Matthew 6:23)
- For out of the heart come evil thoughts. (Matthew 15:19-20)

# Loving and knowing

- If I'm stuck on myself, I can't understand things and persons outside myself.
- If I see things only in light of how they fit my agenda, I can't see them as they are.
- If I'm trapped in my own viewpoint, I can't understand a different viewpoint.
- Loving God and others is crucial for knowing God and others. We can really know person only if we care about them.
- A loving heart opens my mind.



## Same seed, four soils

- Hard, shallow, cluttered, or good
- Different hearts receive God's Word in different ways.
- Good soil: "those with a noble and good heart" "hear the word and understand it"

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**Real knowledge of God involves a renewed heart, godly actions, and Christian community.**