

Heart Versus Head: A Modern Fiction

1 Corinthians 14:15

What then is it?

I will pray with the spirit,
and I will also pray with the mind;
I will sing with the spirit,
and I will also sing with the mind.

Spirit Versus Mind

Modern Christianity sees man's *heart* as superior to his *head* in spiritual things.

God is purportedly communicating to man's heart, seeking to move him at an *emotional* level to accept the Gospel. The place of *reason* in this process is to unveil to men their latent desire for God. It is assumed that men inwardly yearn for God but that various distractions and temptations have suppressed that yearning. Once we reasonably present God's love and sympathy to them, they will see that they have no need to hide from God any longer. So we reason them around their obstacles, and- Voila!- we should have a decision for Christ!*

Then, once men are Christians, God wants to relate to them on a *heart* level. He doesn't want us simply conceiving of Him in our *minds* or contemplating Christianity as a sort of theory. No, in fact, too much

thinking gets in the way.*

Whenever questions perplex us and we begin considering too many factors, too many Biblical angles, we remind ourselves in our consternation that it ultimately *doesn't matter* what the answer is- we're going to find out about it all in Heaven! It's not worth getting in a turmoil over now!**

Heart is frequently pulled out as a trump card over head. Whenever an issue isn't being settled as we'd like, we point to the unbalanced nature of our antagonist, that he's making the Christian life a bunch of speculative hocus pocus instead of just concentrating on loving and serving the Lord.

Heart is in the ascendancy in modern Christianity.

But Paul seems to view things differently.

In the area of worship, where we would think **heart** is definitely supposed to dominate **head**, Paul says that both are to be **even**. One is not to be given sway over the other.

In the verse at the head of the devotion, Paul seems concerned that heart NOT dominate head. The Corinthians had been emphasizing incomprehensible communication with God. Paul said that was dangerous business. He said that he *never* wanted to put his mind in neutral. Worship was *always* supposed to be a rational activity. Every act of worship is a call to *total* human involvement. To leave my brain in neutral is to give God only *part* of myself. Furthermore, it is to in-

vite confusion, for the mind gives order to the spirit and its expressions.

Modern Christianity has undervalued the mind in many ways; but we have not thereby improved our hearts as we have supposed. We have only made them unaccountable, so we can *presume* our hearts are very spiritual. Then we safeguard our arrogance by making minds inferior wards of an inferior domain, so they cannot give relevant critique in the area of heart/spirit.

Many falsehoods have been firmly established in Christendom while mind has been consigned to scullery duty.

* This paragraph assumes heart as dominant over head. Everything in the paragraph is wrong, though not every error necessarily *begins* with false doctrine about the mind or heart.

** We should not be in turmoil, but our minds can't be turned off to avoid it. Our minds are vital in reminding ourselves of the truths of God which bring us peace.

