

## MAIN POINT

*In order to make better decisions, we need to test our motivations and our hearts, asking God to lead and purify us.*

## INTRODUCTION

Have you ever heard someone say that they wanted to spend some time “finding themselves”? What does this mean? What do people usually do to accomplish this mission?

What is the flaw in trying to discover or find yourself?

We live in a time when searching to find truth inside yourself is the highest cultural ideal. People “find themselves” and “discover their truth”. According to this way of thinking, once this “truth” is found it is unquestionable because it is unreasonable to question someone’s experience or journey in life. However, the problem with this ideal is that our thoughts, feelings, and intentions lie to us. (See Romans 1:28-31.) Because truth comes from outside of us, we need God to teach us the truth about ourselves and learn to rely on His Spirit to reveal to us what is going on in our hearts.

## DISCUSSION

### > READ JEREMIAH 17:9-10 AND PSALM 139:23-24.

God reminds us through Jeremiah that our hearts are “deceitful.” What are some of the ways our hearts lie to us about our motivations? How does this effect believers and non-believers alike?

How does this challenge the cultural ideal that all people are “basically good”?

When you hear your heart is deceitful, how does that expose your need for God?

Psalms 139 is all about God’s presence everywhere—even in the most intimate spaces of our lives. After David acknowledged God’s presence in everything, what did David ask of God in these verses? If God is everywhere all the time (as David had just affirmed), why was this a question that needed to be asked?

What does God know about you that you don’t know about yourself?

Has God ever helped you to realize something about yourself you missed through self examination? Share about that experience as you are comfortable.

Have you ever asked a question like this to God? If so, what motivated you to ask?

Read Galatians 6:1. How does God use other believers to point out “any offensive way” in you? What would it look like to follow these instructions in this group?

Read 2 Corinthians 13:5. What tools do we have at our disposal that God has given us to test ourselves in the manner God described here and lead us in the “way everlasting”?

## APPLICATION

Based on today’s discussion, how might you make better decisions by seeking God’s wisdom over your own in the days ahead?