

SESSION FIVE: Reason in Human Life and Religion.
How Education Fails. The Redemption of Reason.

"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, well-pleasing to God, which is the rational thing to do. And do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renovation of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is—that which is good and well-pleasing and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)

1. Reason is the mental power to trace out connections in reality. It indicates the human destiny appointed by God.
2. It is so powerful that it leads naturally to self-deification. *"Now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them."* (Genesis 11:6)
3. Pride stands in opposition to humility of mind, so necessary for human relations.
4. Reason is limited by the necessity of having premises to work from, the difficulty of correctness in inferences, the willingness to know truth that contradicts our desires.
5. Wesley's comments on what reason cannot do.
 - Give a clear and satisfactory evidence of the invisible world.
 - Produce hope for life eternal and everlasting.
 - Produce the love of God, love of neighbor, virtue, or happiness.(See his sermon: "The Case of Reason Considered.")
6. These inabilities are not just due to the nature of reason, but to how it is used by human beings who are distorted by evil.
7. How "education" as a strictly human enterprise fails.
 - It cannot get the true premises to work from and is corrupted by desire.
 - Plato (The Republic)
 - Rousseau (Emile) and Schiller (Aesthetic Education of Man)
 - Current Scene
8. Some primary issues:
 - What is the human being for? —The "Nothing" answer of today.
 - ◆ To love God and enjoy Him forever?
 - What is wrong with the human being? Sin.
9. "Education" is, no doubt, the solution, but which Education?
10. The Redemption of Reason through—
 - Making love of truth and faithfulness to logic:
 - ◆ Part of one's moral identity—what I must have to be a good person.
 - ◆ Supported by faith in the God of truth.
11. The reasonable person is the one who is devoted to truth, and to finding it and living in it by all available means.
12. Only confidence in God makes this possible. He is the God of truth. Truth sets his people apart. (John 17:17)