

Connected to Self

2024-08-19 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



2 Corinthians 3:12-18

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Paul describes a veil that stays over a person's mind until it turns to Christ. Pastor Matt named the things that function as veils for us: genetics and personality, environment, past trauma, nostalgia for how things used to be done, and societal norms we never stop to examine. Any of them can sit between you and what God wants to do in you. His sharpest distinction: self-forgetfulness is not the same as self-ignorance. Humility does not require staying blind to yourself. Knowing what has been shaping you is part of letting God remove it.

To get started

- What is one thing about yourself you would change if you could?

Looking back at the message

The busyness point tends to land hardest. Most people in the room use it as an answer to how are you.

- 1 Pastor Matt said busyness is a societal norm we use as an excuse. Is that fair? What does your busyness excuse you from?
- 2 Pastor Matt named five veils that distort how we see ourselves: genetics, environment, trauma, nostalgia, and societal norms. Which one has been shaping you the most?
- 3 Pastor Matt said some cultural norms keep us in willful sin simply because everyone around us treats them as normal. Can you name one? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18, and Exodus 34:29-35 for the background on Moses.

- 4 Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-16. What is the veil, and what does the passage say removes it?
- 5 Read verse 18. What is happening to those who see with unveiled faces, and at what speed?
- 6 Read Exodus 34:29-35. Why did Moses veil his face in the first place?
- 7 Read Romans 12:1-2. Paul says do not conform to the pattern of this world. What does he offer as the alternative? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Some veils are things a professional should help with. He said so; say so too.

- 8 What have you assumed you are simply stuck with about yourself?
- 9 Where has nostalgia, the pull of how things used to be, kept you from something God is doing now?
- 10 Pastor Matt said transformation is gradual, but illumination begins the moment a person trusts Jesus. Which of those two have you experienced?
- 11 What is one norm in your week you would like to stop treating as inevitable? OPTIONAL

The group together

People often cannot see their own veils. Others can, gently.

- 12 Why is self-awareness so hard to get without other people?
- 13 How could this group give honest feedback without it turning into criticism?
- 14 Every group absorbs norms without noticing. What might this one have absorbed?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is the veil you are asking God to remove, and what is your part in removing it?

You might pray about

- For honesty about what has been shaping us
- For anyone carrying trauma that needs more than a group can give
- For transformation that is real even when it is slow