

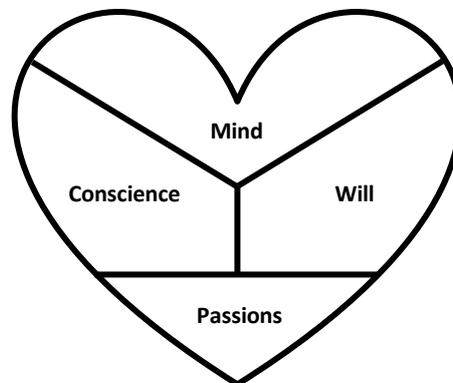
■ Open the session with prayer

■ Read together Romans 12:1-2

1. Romans 12:1 begins with the word “therefore” which probably means the next verses summarize what Paul has written so far in the first 11 chapters of Romans. To the best of your ability, what is the basic flow of thought from Romans 1 to Romans 11, which 12:1-2 brings to a head?
2. We are to resist “conformity” to the thoughts and actions of this world (v.2). How does Paul say this happens in us?
3. How does God renew our minds?
4. Can you identify a process or pattern through verses 1 and 2 of how Christians end up being able to “discern” what is “good, acceptable and perfect”? Where does it start?

■ Watch the video entitled **Session 3: The Gospel Moves Us Inwardly**. Take notes of things that you find interesting from the video and pausing at the on-screen prompts, discuss the corresponding sections:

The Faculties of the Heart:



(Diagram taken from M. Capill, *The Heart is the Target*)

**Section 1: A Change of the Mind**

1. Every “faculty of the heart” (thought, conscience, will and passions) has been deeply marred by sin in every human being. How does this sit with the popular view that “everyone is basically good”? How does this influence what we watch and read or who we admire?
2. What are some implications of the mind being the primary way in which other “faculties” are to be addressed? How often do you take stock of what your mind is feeding on?



### Section 2: A Change of the Conscience

3. Before the gospel starts changing us, our conscience can be like a bad smoke detector: either too sensitive or with flat batteries that don't detect anything. Through the gospel, the Holy Spirit works within us to convict us and show us our true standing before God. Is there anything that the Holy Spirit has challenged your conscience with this past week?
4. Martin believes it can be a common problem for a Christian's conscience to focus too much on our sin and not enough on Christ and what he has done. Is this something that you have wrestled with personally before? How can we practically "look to Christ" more often than our sin?

### Section 3: A Change of Behaviours & Passions

5. How can we address the "will", urging ourselves and others to right action, without sinking into legalism?
6. Murray says the most influential parts of our heart are its "passions" – the things we either deeply love or hate. When things, other than God, grab our passions it's possible to be led in all the wrong ways in our thinking (the mind), feeling (the conscience) and doing (the will). Martin said the gospel, however, allows us to "see and behold and enjoy the glory of Christ" which ultimately grabs our passions (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:4-6). Spend some time as a group listing and reflecting on all the things that make Christ "glorious". Then as you move into closing the session in prayer spend time thanking him for who he is and all the things he has done for you. Singing a song or two might also be something you feel comfortable doing.

#### ■ Close in prayer:

- Prayer points for my group:
- Prayer points for myself:

#### ■ A healthy habit our small group wants to work on this week:

#### ■ A healthy habit I want to work on this week:

#### ■ Some questions to reflect on further this week:

- What really stood out for me in this week's discussion?
- What am I feeding my mind with this week?

#### ■ For deeper reading:

T. Keller, *Counterfeit Gods: When the Empty Promises of Love, Money and Power Let You Down*, Hodder & Stoughton.