God’s Design of Our Experience

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**Introduction**

God designed you to experience the world as a person made in his image—that is, as people designed to think, to feel, and to choose. His love transforms the full breadth of who you are.

Simple Versus Complex Approach

**Main Point**

Jesus spoke to the entire human experience, addressing the full breadth of the heart’s functions. He addressed his disciples as people designed to think, to feel, and to choose. To put it in different terms, we could say that people function cognitively, affectively, and volitionally. And Jesus lays claim to the entire design, redeeming those very capacities for his own purposes.

**Jesus’ three-dimensional approach to human experience.**

* Cognitive Knowledge (John 16:13-15)
* Affective Feeling (John 16:20-24)
* Volitional Action (John 16:23-24)

**Application: Consider how your personal ministry may be lopsided, emphasizing one aspect of the heart’s function at the expense of the others.**

What does a person need in counseling?

* Does his intellect need to be instructed?
* Or, do his emotions need to be explored and directed?
* Or, does he need to make better choices?

1. **Cognition: Do not ignore a person’s interpretation of their situation; it shows what they believe most strongly.**

**Then, you rely on the power of Scripture to give greater knowledge, leading to a better understanding of their experience.**

1. **Affection: Do not ignore a person’s feelings about their situation; it shows what they want most strongly.**

**Then, you rely on the power of the Word to challenge deeply held desires, leading to truer emotions in their situation.**

1. **Volition: Do not ignore a person’s choice in their situation; it shows what they are committed to most strongly.**

**Then, rely on the power of the Word to inspire better commitments, leading to better choices in their daily life.**

***Discussion Question:* When you minister to people, do you tend to address primarily the way they think, the way they feel, or the way they act? Why do you think that is?**