

Reason is indispensable to fruitful Christian faith. Without reason and its corollary acceptance of inputs from alternate authoritative sources, Christians have no means by which they may be assured of anything, much less about their right standing before God. Neither can Christians hope to take a stand in the culture against the philosophies of man and the effect of the fall generally speaking on our complex human relationships. The mind is the last bastion of defense. By it we also may confirm the appropriateness of our passion to our circumstances and convictions.

Reform and revival are not possible without a robust life of the mind in the church. God invited the Israelites of Isaiah's to reason together with Him. Jesus instructs us to love God with our all our *mind*. Paul beseeches us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. It is clear from scripture that the mind is central to our flourishing as Christians. We are to refute the philosophies of man.

To reason is to encounter the mind and heart of God, who made us reason-able. Reason then is practically speaking – devotional. Reason informs and guards our faith, by which we stand against things that exalt themselves against God.

Our culture has bent the knee to many idols; they perish also for lack of knowledge. People are afraid to question well entrenched systems and thought forms, and the idolaters have implemented a system of excommunication in the form of the intolerant label. Nobody dependent on such a system can endure that. The truth will indeed set people free – free indeed.

At the end of the Disney animation film, "A Bug's Life", Flick the ant stands up against the terrifying grasshopper "Hopper" who has held the colony enslaved. The colony came to define itself by that enslavement. But Flick addresses the underlying assumption that is perpetuating the ideology; he convinces his fellow ants that though much smaller in strength, they outnumber their oppressors. By that reason they overcame their captor. Christians must do likewise. It is our duty by the grace of God to present reality to those trapped in fantasy. Scripture does not point to a Christian utopia before the Second Advent of Christ. But the same scripture directs to us to engage the mind in the culture we are in and I must suppose that God intends to awaken many thereby. At the very least, we may pour out our intellectual rain on both the just and the unjust.