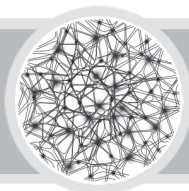


## **order:** A Biblical Vision for Mental Illness

**Myth** John 8:32

Ryan Fair || April 29, 2018



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### **Discussion Questions**

1. Share one myth about mental illness that you used to believe. Share what led you to realize it was wrong.
2. Three areas are commonly given as the root cause of mental illness: biological, environmental/traumatic or spiritual. When you have heard mental illness discussed before, which of these were emphasized? Which were minimized? How do you personally respond to the idea that there are three possible root causes for mental illness?
3. Job's friends assumed they knew the cause of his affliction. Not only did it cause Job tremendous pain, but God's anger burned against their presumption. How can we break from this kind of behavior? How does Christ lead us to empathize with each other? What does love look like when we don't know why a person is suffering?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. When the Apostle Paul pleaded for God to remove the "thorn in his flesh," God responded by saying, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Take stock of your emotions as you hear these words. Do they evoke feelings of peace and trust? Or anger and frustration? Why do they impact you in this way?
5. Ryan shared that mental illness does not define you. Instead, your identity in Christ defines you—God is sovereign, He created you in His image, He loves you. Take time to discuss what each of these three truths means for who you are in Christ. Close in prayer by thanking God for each of these.

Check out New Hope Church's community forums on mental illness. Visit [newhopechurchmn.org/messageseries](http://newhopechurchmn.org/messageseries).

Message notes available at [newhopechurchmn.org/messages](http://newhopechurchmn.org/messages).

**May 6** *Order: Image*, Genesis 1 & Psalm 1, Pastor Matthew St. John