

Think Right

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There is a right way to think and a wrong way to think. The Bible says so, and human experience demonstrates it to be so.

Unbelievers are not thinking right. The apostle Paul said that they "became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened" (Romans 1:21). Their course of life is unreasonable. It is contrary to truth and therefore contrary to reason. No wonder the value concepts, ethical standards and behavioral philosophies of a world that thinks contrary to God's word are only highly developed madness.

Conversion requires reason. It is a return to truth, to reality. It is the beginning of right thinking. "Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD" (Isaiah 1:18).

Saved people acknowledge and embrace truth. They have set themselves in the course of truth and reason. Every step along that course is a step of truth and reason. Accordingly, the value concepts, ethical standards and behavioral philosophies of those who think according to God's word display the perfection and beauty of divine wisdom.

Whenever Christians think like the world on any subject, problems arise. It is easy to accept popular notions as truth without questioning them. Prevailing opinion must always be judged by Scripture. We must ask, "What does God say about it?" For the answer we must go to the Bible. Biblical thinking is sound thinking.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). "Think soberly" (verse 3). Ephesians 4:23 says, "Be renewed in the spirit of your mind."

God is concerned about how we think. Proverbs 12:5 says, "The thoughts of the righteous are right." We have "the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16).

We are to think single-mindedly. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways and needs to purify his heart (James 1:8 and 4:8). Paul was concerned lest the minds of the believers "may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3).

We must practice sound thinking. "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). Paul instructed Titus to exhort the young men to be sober-minded (Titus 2:6).

Christians cannot afford lazy mental habits. Thought discipline is imperative. We are to love God with all of our mind (Matthew 22:37). We have a moral obligation to develop and use our minds to the best of our ability and opportunity for the glory of God and the good of others. "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind" (1 Peter 1:13).

We must think maturely. Paul testified, "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (1 Corinthians 13:11). "In understanding be men" (14:20 KJV).

By use we should have our "senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14). Let's reason out sound biblical convictions about what is right and what is wrong, and hold to those convictions.

"Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things" (2 Timothy 2:7).

The Spirit of God moved Paul to pray that believers might be "filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Colossians 1:9).

God wants us to think right about Him. This is crucial because if we do not think right about God, we cannot and will not think right about anything. Also, God will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are stayed on Him (Isaiah 26:3).

God wants us to think right about sin. "Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:11).

We must think right about God's word. He promised, "I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts" (Hebrews 8:10, quoted from Jeremiah 31). The "blessed man" meditates in God's word day and night (Psalm 1:2). No wonder such a person is like a sturdy, fruit-bearing tree.

God wants us to think right about prayer. Jesus said that the heathen "think that they will be heard for their many words" (Matthew 6:7). They do not think right about prayer because they do not think right about God.

God wants us to think right about ourselves. "For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself" (Galatians 6:3). We are instructed to put on "humbleness of mind" (Colossians 3:12 KJV).

God wants us to think right about one another. "Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion" (Romans 12:16). We are not to do anything "through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself" (Philippians 2:3).

God wants us to think right about life and this present world. "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2). We must not allow the cares of this life to choke us spiritually. Jesus said that we are not to worry about even the necessities of life (Matthew 6:25). Worry does not help; it only hinders. Worry distracts us from faith in God and hinders practical and productive thinking.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6,7).

God wants us to think right about trials and problems. "Do not think it strange" (1 Peter 4:12). Rather, "consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls" (Hebrews 12:3).

God wants us to think right about the future. The Thessalonians had some unsound ideas about prophecy. Paul wrote to them "not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled" (2 Thessalonians 2:2). Disruptive prophecy teaching confuses. Sound prophecy teaching edifies.

God wants us to think right about everything. That is why He gave us His written word. It is our all-sufficient rule of faith and conduct. It is our authoritative and complete guide for life. Let us think biblically, choose biblically, live biblically. As we do, our joy will be full.

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8).