

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

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I) DO YOU THINK LIKE THIS WORLD?

A) WHAT INFLUENCES YOUR THINKING?

B) WE ARE N.O.T.W.

i) Our Citizenship

ii) We are aliens and strangers

C) WE ARE TO THINK DIFFERENTLY

II) LET GOD CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK – HOW?

A) BY ABIDEING

III) HERE IS SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

A) EPHESIANS 4:22-24

B) PHILIPPIANS 4:8

C) COLOSSIANS 3:2

The resources used to prepare this teaching can be found at:
<http://www.questculvercity.org/resources.html>

I) DO YOU THINK LIKE THIS WORLD?

A) WHAT INFLUENCES YOUR THINKING?

Do you ever pay attention to what you think about?

What has influenced your thinking this week?

How do you make decisions?

Why is this important?

Watch your thoughts, for they become desires.

Watch your desires, for they become actions.

Watch your actions, for they become habits.

Watch your habits, for they become character.

Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.

Watch your destiny, for it becomes your eternity.

- How different is my thinking from that of this world?
- How much of our decision making comes from the media?
TV, radio, music, Schools, politically correct thinking.
- The American Church (members & leaders) sometimes looks just like the world.
Who is influencing who?
- You will either influence or be influenced. Who is influencing who?

Could not wear shoes - Richard Wurmbrand

We march to the beat of a different drum.

A) WE ARE N.O.T.W.

i) Our Citizenship

PHILIPPIANS 3:20 (NASB) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

This world is not our home.

We are only passing through.

Should we think like this world?

ii) We are aliens and strangers

HEBREWS 11:13 (NIV) All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

Church - ἐκκλησία

From a compound of ἐκ (Out of SRN G1537) and a derivative of καλέω (Called SRN G2564)

We are like:

- Strangers, aliens, pilgrims, foreigners.
- Soldiers behind enemy lines.

How then should we think?

C) WE ARE TO THINK DIFFERENTLY

- There is to be something different about us.
- It starts with how we think.

Illust. – DP.

Others will see and be drawn.

MATTHEW 5:13-16 (NKJV) “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

What does salt do? Makes thirsty.

What does light do? Shows the way.

How can we be salt and light if there is little difference between us and the world?

So, how do I change?

II) LET GOD CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK – HOW:

A) BY ABIDEING

JOHN 15:4,5 (NASB) “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

What does it mean to abide in Him?

- Knowing Him, not just knowing about Him.

God is personally knowable; you can have a personal relationship with Him.

In other religions God is impersonal and unknowable.

- Having Relationship with Him

Spending time, intimacy, closeness,

How can you have relationship with someone you can't even see? You can sense Him other ways.

- To Love Him

Remember someone you loved. You think about them all the time.

You talk about them. They fill your day.

The greatest commandment is to love God.

What happens as we abide?

- Change, He changes you without noticing or trying.

Some of the greatest changes that have happened in my Christian life just happened. I didn't force them or try to make them happen. They just happened. All I did was abide.

- It is exciting

God is doing something in this Church. He has a purpose, etc...

Without abiding:

- Our service for Him is all merely performance.
- There is little reward and satisfaction.
- We burn out.

How do I abide in Him?

- Prayer
- Learn – Through the Word
- Be still – Listen

III) HERE IS SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

A) EPHESIANS 4:22-24 (NIV)

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- Put off the old

The works of the flesh.

These war against our spiritual nature.

- Be made new in your minds

Change the way you think to be more Christlike.

This is an ongoing process.

- Put on the new

Be led by the Spirit.

B) PHILIPPIANS 4:8 (NIV)

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

- Before giving a criticism of someone say 5 good things about them.

C) COLOSSIANS 3:2 (NASB)

Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

- Our orientation is to be toward heaven.

CONC:

What are you thinking?

- Don't think like this world – you are not of it.
- Let God change your thinking.
- Abide in Him.