

The Jesus Way #4:
Think what Jesus Thought

Rom. 12:1-2; Phil. 4:8
March 5, 2006

Walk as He Walked

³By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; ⁵but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. **By this we know that we are in Him: ⁶the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.**" (1 Jn. 2:3-6)

The Key to Transformation

1. A Living Sacrifice
2. The Need for Transformation
 - We can't transform ourselves
 - There's something we need to do
 - It's a process
 - Transformation begins with our thinking

The Key to Transformation

1. A Living Sacrifice
2. The Need for Transformation
3. The Result of Transformation
 - We understand God's will
 - We joyfully accept God's will

The Key to Transformation

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is."
(*Rom. 12:2, New Living Translation*)

The Key to Transformation

"As a Christian is transformed in his mind and is made more like Christ, he comes to approve and desire God's will, not his own will for his life. Then he discovers that God's will is what is good for him, and that it pleases God, and is complete in every way. It is all he needs. But only by being renewed spiritually can a believer ascertain, do, and enjoy the will of God."
[Bible Knowledge Commentary]

What you Think about Matters

"Have this **attitude** in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5)

"Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this **attitude**; and if in anything you have a different **attitude**, God will reveal that also to you" (Phil. 3:15)

"But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have **counted** as loss for the sake of Christ." (Phil. 3:7)

What you Think about Matters

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind **regard** one another as more important than yourselves" (Phil. 2:3)

"Set your **mind** on the things above, not on the things that are on earth." (Col. 3:2)

"For those who are according to the flesh set their **minds** on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit." (Rom. 8:5)

What you Think about Matters

"**Consider** it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials" (James 1:2)

What you Think about Matters

- It is impossible to live like Jesus without learning to think like Jesus
- We are commanded to think about certain things
 - We **can** chose what we think about
 - It **does** matter what we put into our minds

What you Think about Matters

- What does it mean to let your mind "dwell" on something?
 - "to think about, ponder, let one's mind dwell on" [O'Brien]
 - "take into account, reflect upon and then allow these things to shape your conduct" [Martin]

Six Excellent Qualities

- True
- Honorable
- Right
- Pure
- Lovely
- Of good repute

Two Key Characteristics

- Moral Excellence
- Worthy of Praise

Implications for Life

1. What do you think about?
2. What do you put into your mind?

What do you put into your mind?

“What are we feeding into our minds?
Most Christians have little choice but to spend forty or fifty hours of every week in ‘the world,’ making a living. It is hoped that most Christians also seek to spend time with unbelievers as a means of ministry and evangelism. . .

What do you put into your mind?

“But if we spend all our discretionary time watching network television, reading secular books, and listening to secular music, it will be a wonder if our minds are not fundamentally secular. Our job is to cooperate with God’s Spirit by seeking to feed into our minds information that will reprogram our thinking in line with the values of the kingdom.” [Douglas Moo]

What do you put into your mind?

“Our present American culture boasts of complete freedom in what one sees, says, and hears. Many professing Christians are paralyzed or even destroyed by adopting this ‘freedom’ as a lifestyle. For they allow images into their mind that eventually overwhelm them. If we allow everything access to our mind, we are simply asking to be kept in a state of mental turmoil or bondage. **For nothing enters the mind without having an effect for good or evil.**” [Willard, *Renovation*, 111, emphasis mine]

What do you put into your mind?

“Today we as a culture are schizophrenic on such matters. We want to say it doesn’t make any difference what we look at or hear. This, no doubt, is because we want to be ‘free’ to show anything and see anything—no matter how evil and revolting. . .

What do you put into your mind?

“But businesses still pay millions of dollars to show us something for thirty seconds on television. They do that because they know that what we repeatedly see and hear affects what we do. Otherwise they would go out of business.” [Willard, *Renovation*, 114]

Implications for Life

1. What do you think about?
2. What do you put into your mind?
3. Will you deliberately choose to think about the right sort of things?

Chose what you think

“One thing we can be sure of: If we do not actively seek to come under the influence of God’s Word, we will come under the influence of sinful society around us.” [Jerry Bridges, *Discipline of Grace*, 166-67]

For further Reading...

- *The Renovation of the Heart* by Dallas Willard
- *The Discipline of Grace* by Jerry Bridges
- *Choose the Life* by Bill Hull