

I Corinthians 2:16 – Operating in the Mind of Christ – the world doesn't need another person who thinks like you or me they need someone who thinks like Jesus!

--We have a tremendous responsibility to bring Christ's words, actions, and mind to our world.

--**Colossians 3:1-2** – This isn't just thinking about the pearly gates or the golden streets, its thinking like heaven thinks, seeing things the way heaven sees them.

1. Our first goal was to take our minds and our thinking seriously.

Proverbs 23:7 – “think” in this instance is a Hebrew word that means to think deeply, to calculate—its not surface level thoughts.

--These thoughts--our thoughts, shape us

--Our thoughts have harvest time so we need to be careful what we are currently planting.

--You're planting corn but are getting mad when you don't harvest wheat—How are we supposed to help you?

Philippians 4:8 – If we want good things, we need to plant good things.

2. Our second goal is to take action.

--**II Timothy 1:6-7** – God has given us a sound mind and we need to be constantly re-minded of who we are what we are supposed to be doing.

Actions points for a constant re-reminder:

1. Feed your mind good stuff if you want good stuff produced in your life.

--**Phil. 4:8**

2. Control your mind

--**Phil. 4:6-7** – Prayer is mind control; prayer is submitting the things that our sheep minds can't handle to the Mind of Christ.

--Its not just making requests; it is also submitting my thoughts to the Spirit of God.

3. Guard your mind – **II Corinthians 10:5** – Our minds are a battlefield and it is where our life battles are won or lost.

4. Renew your mind -- **Romans 12:2**

-the Mind of Christ knows the will of God,

-the Mind of Christ discerns what's really going on.

-the Mind of Christ knows what matters.

Analysts have determined that we think over 6K thoughts per day on average.

--We are capable of some really weird, disturbing and even evil thoughts.

3. One of the primary keys in thinking right is to realize that we don't think right--by nature.

Romans 1:21-22 – thinking wrong is the cause of our problems.

--Eve said, “in the day we eat of it we will surely die” Satan said, “you

will surely not die." (think like me not like God)

--God said, "this is how to think right" Satan said, "no, it isn't!"

Sheep aren't known for their thinking ability.

--They really aren't free thinkers—they will either think the thoughts of their shepherd or they will fall to thoughts of the wolf.

So, we have to realize that someone or something is always trying to think for us.

--The Wolf is constantly trying to think for us. (that is a scary thought)

--God is constantly trying to think for us. (that is an amazing thought)

We can think like the Wolf—What do the thoughts of the wolf lead to?

We can think like God—What do God's thoughts lead to?

When we trust Christ, many things are happening not the least of which is that we are accepting God's way of thinking/the right way of thinking.

--Confessing that we are sinners in need of a Savior = *thinking right*.

--Repentance of wrong thinking which led to wrong acting = *thinking right*.

--Acknowledging God as sovereign and that we belong to Him and will answer to Him = *thinking right*.

In fact, discipleship is not a change in status; we already and will always be children of God—born again into His family.

--Discipleship is a change in thinking—the Corinthians had the mind of Christ but they were acting like mere men because of their thinking.

--Their status was glorious but their thinking was stinking!

Luke 9:23 – Deny yourself, your plans, your ideas, your agenda = **your way of thinking** (which isn't really yours but an accumulation of the Wolf's thinking passed down to you) and then following Jesus/His way of thinking.

1. Starts with me realizing I **don't** think right.

2. Continues with my conviction that Jesus **does** think right.

3. Progresses with me replacing my thoughts with those of Jesus.

4. How do we make further progress?

Back to our four actions: **Feed** our minds; **control** our minds; **guard** our minds and **renew** our minds—these are accomplished through rehearsing continually what God has said—the Scriptures.

--In fact, another way to think of the Bible is that it is a collection of God's thoughts.

--We are feeding, controlling, guarding and renewing our minds every time we spend time in the Scriptures.

--This is why we don't waste our time together on Sundays pondering politics or conjecturing over conspiracy theories or people's opinions because they don't help us think right.

II Timothy 4:1-2 – What is being taught, rebuked and corrected? ultimately our thoughts!

--**V. 3**-- People want their preconceived thoughts affirmed thus the accumulation of false teachers.

--**VV. 4-5**-- But we are to be sober – Are people who are not sober thinking correctly?

Another way to think of our responsibility as believers is that we are to be the designated drivers of our family, jobs, friends, world.

--**Again, that we not think like mere men who are intoxicated** by wrong thinking, but that ***we think like Christ.***

One final thought for our thinking:

II Corinthians 10:5 – That is no small task given that we have upward of 6,000 thought per day!

--What kind of jail will we need for all our thoughts?

--We need thought policemen, thought judges and a thought executioners—God and His word will be all these things for us if we will let Him.

Example: A Wolf thought: “I think my sin has cancelled my salvation”
God’s police, judge and executioner: **Romans 8:1**