

The Brown Street Beacon

“...Shine out among them like beacon lights,



holding out to them the Word of Life” (Phil 2:15-16)

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How Should We Think?

Have you ever done something without thinking? I have. I doubt that I am the only one who would confess to this. People act without thinking all the time. Sometimes anger causes us to do it. At other times laziness is the culprit. It could be that a false sense of security or maybe being overly anxious about something causes us to jump into a situation without giving it much thought. Whatever the reason behind it , usually the results are regrettable. Thinking things through is always the best course to follow.

As Christians it is important, not only to think things through before we act, but that we develop a certain way of thinking in general. The way of life we choose will be decided, at least in part, by how we think from day to day. So then, how should we think as Christians?

We should think soberly (Romans 12:3)

To be sober-minded is to be of a sound mind. To live soberly is to act wisely by keeping one's passions and emotions under control. Vine says that “*it suggests the exercise of that self-restraint that governs all passions and desires, enabling the believer to be conformed to the mind of Christ.*” Have you ever seen a person who was drunk? They are loud, obnoxious, and out of control. They speak ignorantly, not making very much sense most of the time. They do not have a handle on their emotions, being either very angry, greatly depressed, or silly-minded. Being sober-minded is the opposite of being drunk. No matter what happens to the person who is thinking soberly, he is able to stay balanced and make rational decisions. He is able to discern between right and wrong even when under pressure. To the drunk things are out of focus. He loses a sense of reality. The sober-minded person sees things as they really are, even in regard to himself. He knows that he is not always right, is aware of the fact that he makes mistakes, and does not think of himself more highly than he ought(Romans 12:3). These are all things that God wants to see in His children. It is no wonder that Paul said, “*...think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*”

We Should Think Like God (Isaiah 55:8)

In Isaiah 55:8 God rebukes His people for not thinking as He does. He said, “*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.*” When we do not think the way God thinks, we will not live the way He wants us to live. Our thoughts about sin should be the same as God's. He abhors sin and so should we. He loves good and so He only does good continually. We should also be involved in the doing of good, for we should think of good the same way as God does. Obviously, we cannot think exactly like God, for He has infinite

wisdom and understanding. His thoughts are higher than ours. But when it comes to good and evil and right and wrong, our thoughts should be in accordance with God's thoughts. The best way to align our thoughts with His is by spending a lot of time in His Word where He reveals His mind to us.

We Should Think On Noble Things (Philippians 4:8)

What kind of things we fill our minds with is very important. This is why Paul said, "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...*" (Colossians 3:16). Doing this keeps us from sinning, or at least living in sin. David once said, "*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee*" (Psalms 119:11). When someone is living a sinful life, you can rest assured that he is not allowing the word to dwell in his heart. John declared, "*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him...*" (1 John 3:9). The seed is the word of God (1 Peter 1:23). John is not saying that Christians never sin, but that true Christians do not live in a continual state of sinfulness. The word that indwells us is too powerful. Listen to Paul: "*Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things*" (Philippians 4:8). Yes, how we think is important. So the question is, "How do you think?"

Don

LONG MARRIAGES

--Allan Isom

Much can be learned about family life by studying those people who have experienced a high level of success in their families. One good source of such information comes from marriages after 40 or more years of living together.

Florence Kaslow, a Florida psychologist, found long-term marriages have these common traits:

1. Show love and affection to each other.
2. Show mutual trust and respect to each other.
3. Share common interests and values.
4. Share love for their children.
5. Have a give/take ability with each other.

6. Are sensitive to each other's needs and wishes.

7. Do not let power issues become a battle.

8. Have fun together.

9. Have a healthy sense of humor.

May God help our families to be able to put these things into our marriages. To those senior citizens who have the above traits in their marriages we honor you and pray that God will continue to bless you.