

“Thinking” Biblically (Part 2)

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

(Matthew 5:27-28)

But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.
(Matthew 15:18-19)

I. What does it mean to Think Biblically?

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A. Thinking Biblically does not mean that we deny reality.

“This is not some escapist demand to avoid the harsh realities of our fallen world. The sad fact is that many people dwell on dirt without grasping that it is dirt. The wise Christian will see plenty of dirt in the world, but will recognize it as dirt, precisely because everything that is clean has captured his or her mind.”

- D.A. Carson

B. Thinking Biblically means that we discipline ourselves to think intentionally about the kinds of things Paul describes in v.8.

B. Thinking Biblically means that we think intentionally:

1. Think about whatever is true.

whatever is true

“Everything that is true is from God because all truth is God’s truth. . . . This [applies to] every avenue of life, from faith to science to relationships to public life to business.

- Kent Hughes

2. Think about whatever is honorable.
whatever is honorable

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whatever is honorable

3. Think about whatever is just or right.
whatever is just
whatever is right

2. Think about whatever is honorable.
whatever is honorable

3. Think about whatever is just or right.
whatever is just
whatever is right

4. Think about whatever is pure.
whatever is pure

5. Think about whatever is lovely.

whatever is lovely

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whatever is lovely

“Lovely is a rare word referring to things that attract, please, and win other people's admiration and affection. Such thoughts bring people together in peace rather than separating them in fighting and feuding.”

– Max Anders

6. Think about whatever is commendable
or admirable
whatever is commendable

7. Think about what is excellent or praiseworthy.

if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

“The verb “think about” (*logizomai*) means to ponder, to give proper weight and value to, and to allow the resultant appraisal to influence the way life is to be lived.”

- Alec Motyer

II. How do we develop the habit of Thinking Biblically?

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A. Through consistent Bible reading and study.

“The greatest danger in our busy, increasingly postliterate world is that we make little or no effort to think God’s thoughts after him, to hide his Word in our hearts so that we might not sin against him (Psalm 119: 11). We cannot be profoundly influenced by that which we do not know.”

- Kent Hughes

II. How do we develop the habit of Thinking Biblically?

- A. Through consistent Bible reading and study.
- B. Stop thinking mainly about ourselves.