

“Thinking” Biblically

Philippians 4:8

“It always makes me fearful to remember that God knows my thoughts. Hebrews 4:13 reminds us: *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

- D.A. Carson

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:23–24).*

“Clearly, David recognized not only that God knew his thoughts, but that any real reform in his life must begin with his thoughts. . . .

That is also why, from God's perspective, the real measure of individuals lies in what they think—not in what they own or in how well they deploy their gifts or even in what they do, but in what they think.

If you think holy thoughts, you will be holy;  
if you think garbage, you will be garbage.”

- D.A. Carson

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test  
me and know my anxious thoughts.*  
(Psalm 139:23)

*You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment (Matthew 5:21-22a).*

*“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)

*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)*

“The list of virtues that Paul asks the Philippians to “think about” is not a distinctively Christian list and could have been embraced by many right-thinking people in ancient times.

“It also assumes that the pagan world has some notion of good and bad, right and wrong, duty and irresponsibility, beauty and ugliness, honor and shame.

“Elsewhere Paul speaks of Gentiles who have the requirements of God’s law written on their hearts and says that occasionally they actually do these things (Rom. 2:14–15).

- Frank Thielman

# I. What does it mean to Think Biblically?

I. What does it mean to Think Biblically?

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 think intentionally:

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 mind seeks “whatever is true” in every avenue of life, from faith to science to relationships to public life to business.

- Kent Hughes

“‘Woke’ Christian leaders and pastors today are jumping on the ‘hype train’ of what culture is currently applauding. But they don't really look at what the hype train is connected to. For example, many of the things culture applauds are connected to relativism, abortion, transgenderism, the breakup of the nuclear family.”

One example of the “hype train” many Christians have been far too eager to jump on in recent months is the promotion of the Black Lives Matter organization. “I wholeheartedly agree with the phrase ‘black lives matter.’ I believe in it and the church should champion it. We should stand up for equality and justice. I believe we need to lead out.

But I can't support or agree with the core beliefs of the organization Black Lives Matter. It's tied to abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, and the breakup of the nuclear family, just to name a few."

“Racism is an obvious issue that must always be addressed. We must call it out and point people to the answers found in the person of Jesus Christ. I’m all for supporting legislation that pushes the ball of equality down the field, but real change is only going to happen when we have a heart transformation.

Too many leaders are fearful to stand. Where is the boldness? Both sides of the aisle have dropped the ball. We must have open conversations, face our fears, and find solutions that work."

“I think that we have more of systemic sin problem in our world than a skin problem. Most people I know aren’t racists — some are, yes, and I do believe there’s a skin problem; I just don’t believe it’s systemically the core issue.

The real issue is sin, not skin. That's the root issue, but we're too fearful to say that because we could be misunderstood and maligned."

- Ed Young

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

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

The best way to learn to think truthfully is through consistent Bible reading and study.

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

*(Joshua 1:8)*

“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

*Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth. (Jn.17:17).*