
“What I think you think may not be what you think.” ~ Howard Blandau

001: What Are They Thinking?

Posted 7/8/12 by T. George Homsher, M.Ed.

There are many Christians preoccupied in figuring out or knowing what others are thinking; they are living their lives in what people think. The reality is that we never will fully know what someone is thinking; they will never tell us their exact thoughts. When we live our lives in what others are thinking we're not living out our own lives; we put ourselves in a position of bondage to what their thoughts are. We allow people to become more important in our lives than they need to be. It becomes a double ax of people's increased strength in our lives and our increased weakness.

The positive double ax is allowing the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16) to be unified with our proper mind (Philippians 4:8); a true marriage made in heaven where the strength of Jesus in our lives and our own strength can flourish. This is a mind that's preoccupied, on and off throughout the day, with His thoughts for us, our thoughts, and a focus on Jesus the Person. This is where we become riveted on what He thinks, what we think and who He is--not on what others think. These are times of our day when He can flood our mind with incredible love, peace, joy, and much more. When we turn our thoughts to Jesus we release ourselves from the bondage of others and allow ourselves to draw closer to Him.

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002: What Are They Thinking About Me?

Posted: 7/15/12 by T. George Homsher, M.Ed.

There are many things that we can become preoccupied with when we seek to find out what people are thinking. The most negative is when we wonder what a person is thinking about us. This puts us into an overheated oven, because it brings up a highly charged theme in our individual lives. It's the theme of acceptance and rejection. We all want to be accepted by others, and we don't want to feel the sting of rejection. When we become overly concerned about how others view us we add even more heat to the already heated arena of acceptance and rejection.

When we feel insecure within ourselves we have a strong tendency to seek acceptance from others, and avoid rejection. This sets us up to wonder if people accept us or reject us, and at this point we begin to think, “What are they thinking about me?” Our best approach is to seek the acceptance of the Lord Jesus, and allow Him to heal the hurt of rejection from others. When we do think about what others are thinking regarding us we can simply say in a general nonspecific way, “Lord Jesus you take this negative thought(s) (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)”. We may have to do it more than once, but He will take these thoughts from us, and the associated torment.

“What I think you think may not be what you think. What you think I think may not be what I really think either” Howard Blandau

003: What Are They Thinking I’m Thinking?

Posted: 7/22/12 by T. George Homsher, M.Ed.

Not only are many Christians concerned over what people are thinking in general, and in specific about them, but they also dwell on what they think others believe they’re thinking. After all, if I’m wondering what others are thinking maybe others are trying to figure out what I’m thinking? Talk about an exhausting game of confusion. When we occupy our mind with what people think we’re thinking we become anxious and over calculating with what we want to say or how we want to behave around others, because we have become the spotlight of focus. It is one thing to wonder what someone else is thinking, here the anxiety of attention is on them, but when we wonder what they’re thinking about what we’re thinking--this puts the anxiety of focus on ourselves. Of course, what they’re thinking I’m thinking may not be accurate anyway.

The simplest way to end all of the uncertainty of an over focus on the thoughts of others is to bring every thought captive unto the obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 2:5). We can set our affection on things above (Colossians 3:2), and be above it all, which includes our close friendship with the Lord Jesus (John 15:12-15). The closer we become with Jesus the less we become preoccupied with what someone else thinks. When we have His acceptance we don’t need the acceptance of others. We’ll always desire the acceptance of others, but we will avoid becoming compulsive and feel we have to have it.