

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## What Do You Think? Ephesians 4:17-24

How we think is what defines our actions and character. If you were really changed when you came to Christ, not only will your actions change, but your mind as well. However, it is a daily choice for us. Be intentional.

Vs 17-18 Our pitfalls are the same as they were before, only now we are aware of them

- ◆ Futility of mind: The self-centered life doesn't go anywhere (James 4:1-6)
- ◆ Dark understanding: Yes evil, but more so just not seeing a better way (John 1:3-5)
- ◆ Alienated from the life of God: Our paths are totally different

It's a daily choice. Be intentional.

Vs 18-19 Why does this happen?

- ◆ Ignorance due to blindness: Not willing to see and God letting us choose that (Matt 13:10-15)
- ◆ Past feeling they have given themselves over to lust: Sexual in nature, but more so than that it is a drive. We are driven to something.
- ◆ Working uncleanness with greediness: Financial in nature, but more than that it is a desire (James 1:12-15)

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Vs 20-22 But that's not you. Things are different if you really did hear Him.

- ◆ He is the truth: He makes you free, but you must abide and learn (John 8:31-32)
- ◆ Put off the former conduct: Get rid of that part of yourself. It's a decaying garment.
- ◆ Deceitful lusts: It's false desires (non-truth). It feels entertaining and captivating

He brings this up not just to show who is His and who isn't, but to encourage us in how to behave. There's no point in talking about this if it's by default. Paul is calling us to be proactive.

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Vs 23-24 Renewed

- ◆ The spirit: The spirit is breath and life.
- ◆ Your mind: Phil 2:5-11

Jesus knows Who He is but isn't tied to prestige or recognition. He is obedient out of love. That is what pleases God.

- ◆ True righteousness and holiness: Phil 4:8-9

We should be thinking about:

- ◆ Noble things: Going out of your way to consider and help others
- ◆ Just things: Doing what is right no matter the cost
- ◆ Pure things: No hidden agendas. Working on honest motivations
- ◆ Lovely Things: Notice what brings you a smile. Allow things to make you happy.
- ◆ Good Report things: Sharing stories that have the above qualities. Positivity and hope.
- ◆ Virtue things: Emulating character qualities that should be admired.
- ◆ Praiseworthy things: Noticing things that honor God and telling Him about them. The implication is you study what God likes.

Meditate on these things. Don't just passively think about it. Spend time with these thoughts. Sit quietly and letting God fill in the pieces.

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#### Questions to Think About

What futile things have hijacked my thought life?

What desires influence my thought life?

How can I better include God in my thought life?

How has God been working in the areas I care about?

What can I be praising Him for today?