

A NEW WAY OF THINKING

October 25, 2015 Romans 12:1-2 by Ben Skeat
Staying Free, part 6

MAIN IDEA: Changing the way that we think

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you (PRIORITY) to give your bodies to God (YIELD) because of all he has done for you (CROSS). Let them be a living and holy sacrifice (YIELD)—the kind he will find acceptable (DIRECTION). This is truly the way to worship him (ACT). Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world (TRUTH SOURCE), **but let God transform you into a new person (YIELD) by changing the way you think (PRIORITY)**. Then you will learn to know God's will for you (TRUTH SOURCE), which is good and pleasing and perfect (DIRECTION) Romans 12: 1-2 NLT

CROSS: Gods love, Gods grace, Gods power, Gods Kingdom

In Jesus: we are reconciled (2 Cor 5:18), are forgiven (Eph 1:7), have his spirit (Col 1:27), belong to a new kingdom (Col 1:13), have knowledge of Gods will for us (Eph 1: 9), no longer under the power of sin (Rom 6:14), have authority over our thought lives (2 Cor 10:5)

PRIORITY: Our actions start as thoughts.

"Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny" Stephen Covey

DIRECTION: As water reflects the face, so a mans life reflects his heart Prov 27:19

Direction of our thoughts determine destination- positively (right relationship with God & others) and negatively

Good news about direction: it can change

TRUTH SOURCE: Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God (Rom 12:2 MSG)

Truth sources in play:

Biblical

Extra Biblical (not explicitly taught by, but extrapolated from the bible)

Common Sense (eg. folk wisdom: a bird in the hand...)

Non-Biblical (sometimes smart/wise, but not scriptural)

Anti-Biblical (opposed to scripture. Lies. eg. "you are a failure", "you can't change")

YIELD/ACT: Agreeing with truth and acting on it.

Examples:

Anxiety/Worry: Do not be anxious about anything (YIELD), but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God (ACT) Phil 4:7

Fear: By faith Abraham, when called to go (YIELD) to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went (ACT), even though he did not know where he was going. Heb 11:8

Lust: Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and walk in the way of love (ACT), just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity (YIELD) Eph 5:1-3