

THOUGHTS AND ATTITUDES

September 14 & 15, 2026

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FOUR BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES REGARDING RIGHT THINKING:

1. To think rightly we must have right thoughts about God.

- *"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."*
~A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy
- Our thoughts about God will determine how we worship, obey, pray and trust in Him.
- Any image or thought of God that we make up in our minds and that is not true to who He has revealed Himself to be, is to have a god of our own making.
- Psalm 111:7-9
- Psalm 145:8-9

2. To think rightly you must have a proper regard for God's Word.

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 2 Peter 1:21
- God's Word is a supernatural book, breathed out by Him and applicable for all people for all time.
- The Bible is our plumbline.
- Psalm 19:7-11, 14

3. To think rightly your mind must be renewed.

- Titus 3:3-5
- Even though we are new creatures in Christ, sin still clings.
- Romans 12:2
- The renewing of our minds is not a one-time event. Rather it is a daily renewing.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-6
- 1 Peter 1:13

4. To think rightly you must put off wrong thoughts and put on godly thoughts.

- Wrong, sinful thoughts can become habitual. We can think about things without being aware of what we're letting our minds dwell on.
- Inward sin tends to escalate like a spark in dry grass. Left to itself, before you know it, you have a raging uncontrollable wall of fire.
- 1 Samuel 16:21; 18:8-9 David and Saul
- 1 Peter 1:13-16
- *"If we're not pursuing holiness and we're not pursuing godliness, then that's going to cloud how we interact with others."* ~ Pastor Jesse Randolph
- 1 Corinthians 2:16
- Philippians 2:5-8

Philippians 4:8 ~ *“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is dignified, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, consider these things.”*

Discussion Questions:

1. Are your thoughts true? Think back to the illustration at the beginning of our lesson. In the first scenario Susie assumed things about Jill that had no basis in fact. Have you ever done that?
2. Are your thoughts dignified or honorable? Do they honor God? Do they honor His Word? This goes right along with thoughts that are excellent and worthy of praise. All of these are thoughts that point to submission to God and His Word...thoughts that give Him all the glory with no thought for self-praise or room for a self-serving attitude. How can you train yourself to think rightly about God?
3. Are your thoughts right? The Bible clearly spells out right from wrong. Do your thoughts line up with Scripture? Are there areas of Scripture where your thoughts do not line up?
4. Are your thoughts pure? That means no romantic day-dreaming or lustful thoughts...no living out in your mind the novel you are reading. How could those things could become a problem?
5. Are your thoughts about others lovely? Do your thoughts promote what is best about another person? Do you engage in gossip? How would you stop others who gossip in your presence?
6. Are your thoughts about others commendable? Do you think about them in ways that do not promote slander? What are the underlying sins that would cause us to think wrongly about others?
7. And finally, do you truly have the mind of Christ? How are you making sure you are so saturated with the Word of God that you are actually thinking like Christ?