



REAL CHURCH: Real Thought

Steven Gullickson June 5, 2022

Being the Real Church means living life in words and action, different from the rest of the world. Our minds control our words and our actions. To be the REAL CHURCH requires a different mindset.

⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. **Romans 8:5-6**

Your words and actions show the health of your heart and mind.

¹⁹ As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart. **Proverbs 27:19**

Our mind, like our heart, is naturally sinful.

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. **Colossians 1:21**

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? ¹⁰ "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind..." **Jeremiah 17:9-10**

Be on guard with your thoughts, watch out for destructive thoughts.

¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober... **1 Peter 1:13**

"You cannot defeat what you cannot define. You have to identify the lie that has become a stronghold for you."

– Craig Groeschel, *Winning the War in Your Mind*

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind... **Romans 12:2**

Destructive thought patterns to watch out for.

-Lies -Hateful -Judgmental -Greedy/selfish -Comparison -Sexually immoral -Divisive -Evil/Dark

How can we take control of our thought life?

Take EVERY thought captive, the bad and the good, identify them, then deal with them accordingly.

⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. **2 Corinthians 10:5**

Are you holding your thoughts captive or are they holding you?

1. Let all thoughts be judged by God's Word and the discernment of His Spirit.

¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. **Hebrews 4:12**

2. Treat destructive thoughts severely.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature... ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these... **Colossians 3:5&8**

3. Proactively think Christ-like thoughts.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **Colossians 3:1-2**

4. Build a healthy thought life.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **Philippians 4:8**

Real Action:

1. Seek the Holy Spirit, ask for wisdom and discernment. Ask to have the same mindset as Jesus. (Philippians 2:5)
2. Begin to take active steps to identify your thought patterns. Are there any red flag thoughts? (Colossians 3:5-10)
3. Take every thought captive. The bad and the good. Hold it up to God's Word and let it filter your thoughts and flush out the ones that are disobedient to Christ. Use Philippians 4:8 to filter your thoughts.
4. Meditate on God's Word. Let it marinate in your mind and heart. Start by memorizing Philippians 4:8.