

The Spiritual Woman The Transformed Mind

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"Very few people realize the effect of thought upon the condition of the soul: that it is in fact its food, from which it gets its strength + health + beauty (OR) upon which it may become weak + unhealthy and deformed. The things we think about are the things we feed upon."

- Gal. 3:28
- I Cor. 12:7, 11 - every believer is gifted
- Acts 18:24 - Priscilla and Aquilla
- I Cor. 11:5 - they pray and prophesy
- I Tim 3 - deaconess - a role of under-shepharding
- Rom. 16:1-2 - one who rules & leads many people

Christianity has done more to liberate women than anything else in history. Women became educated and liberated by the church. No other world religion does this i.e. moslem, hindu, animism, taoism. Christ Himself elevated women, respected them, appeared to first to Mary, commended Mary with "why this waste". So what is a Spiritual Woman?

The Importance of Our Mind (Phil. 4:8)

I cannot over-emphasize the importance of how we think. There's

- ① God's wisdom and ours.
- ② In our wisdom - the world's view:
 - We always think we are the center of the universe and we reason out from ourselves
 - Always for our own benefit
 - We always think from a value system that reflects the temporal-temporary, passing things made popular in our culture

- ① In God's wisdom:
 - His thinking is always how He can give- (a) life, (b) love, (c) meaning, (d) rulership - all eternal qualities
 - God always looks at everything from the eternal viewpoint
 - God's evaluation of us and things is based on what's of real value, or (e) lasting importance what's (c) character building and (e) eternally effective for reaching more and more people.

You can see that God's views are the opposite of ours - we need to rethink our value system e.g. is God's way to resolve our vying for greatness.

John 13 - Serving

The History of the ...

1848-1850

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- 1849 - ...
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The ... of ...

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God's Backward Wisdom I Cor. 1+2

→ John 3:16 - is God's way to resolve our sin problem

→ I Cor. 1 & 2 - Paul says the Cross of Christ has forever nullified the wisdom of mankind.

We call the cross foolishness but, in fact, it is the brilliant, unthinkable way God chose to bridge the separation, the alienation between us and God (I Cor. 2:6-7). The most wonderful part of God's wisdom other than

→ our salvation is that He has made it possible for us as believers to think as He does (I Cor. 2:6-16).

(Rom. 12:1) - But first the problem: The World View

J.B. Phillips "Don't let the world pour you into its mold" that's what the "plastic" society of the 60's meant, then the hippies made their own mold. Let me trace your life in the world system.

→ As a 3 year old - cartoons: violence, greed

→ By 5th grade - sexuality is bantered about like a fun "activity" on TV, magazines, and in school

→ School years up to 10th grade: peers take over, they demand conformity in dress, values, actions or you are ostracized. Kids are very cruel and their values are always anti-Biblical, total depravity and teachers don't teach "values" - they say

→ High School - this is the worst peer-pressure. It is all pervasive: there's the "in" group, the "scumbags", the "dopers", the "jocks", the "eggheads (geeks)". and the "out" group

→ There is a total regimen of clothes and behavior demanded in each group. This engenders a fierce desire to climb the social ladder to your group no matter what it takes. Kids forsake parents and Christ and His values in order to be accepted by their peers. Not only this - the school curriculum is:

→ Relativism - anything goes, no absolutes

→ Materialism - they are taught success is money

→ Power and Prestige - we can be somebody and we are the center of the universe, climb the ladder of success over others' bodies - get to the top no matter how you do it

→ Sports - winning is the thing - at all costs, not fun, not good health. "Kill" the other team - competition is the goal of life

→ Humanism - we can solve all our problems - we are the center of the universe, no God, we are the gods of heaven and earth (Camus, Sartre) don't impose religious taboos on our freedom

How?
we
get
our
minds
immersed
in the
world's
wisdom

God's Backward Wisdom

→ John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

→ Col 1:15 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, who was not created, nor was he taken, nor did he come into the world.

→ 1st Cor 1:24 - But unto them that are called, it is the wisdom of God, that we should preach the cross, which is foolishness unto them that perish, but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God.

→ 1st Cor 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

→ 1st Cor 1:26 - For ye see your calling, brethren, how many were called, and how few are chosen.

→ 1st Cor 1:27 - For God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty.

→ 1st Cor 1:28 - Yea, and the things which are despised, and which are counted as nothing, hath God chosen, that he might confound the wise.

→ 1st Cor 1:29 - And the things which are weak, hath God chosen, that he might bring to naught the mighty.

→ 1st Cor 1:30 - For he hath made us partakers of his glory, in that we should bear the same reproach as he bore, who bore it for us, that we should bring forth glory to him, who never was glorified, and who hath not sought glory.

→ 1st Cor 1:31 - Forasmuch as we are partakers of his glory, we will be partakers of his sufferings, which he suffered for us, that he might save us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

→ 1st Cor 1:32 - For ye have your own calling, brethren, which ye have received, and ye have your own glory, which ye have received, and ye have your own reward, which ye have received.

→ 1st Cor 1:33 - For ye have your own calling, brethren, which ye have received, and ye have your own glory, which ye have received, and ye have your own reward, which ye have received.

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→ 1st Cor 1:41 - For ye have your own calling, brethren, which ye have received, and ye have your own glory, which ye have received, and ye have your own reward, which ye have received.

- In College - atheism, under the banner of "secular humanism" is the religion of every area of learning. God, Creation, absolute values are anachronisms to be intellectually done away with forever.
- Music is cultic. It's sexual message is total promiscuity. The "new wave" states clearly their message - the opposite of God's values, despair, violence, Sado-Mas.
- Movies, books, magazines - all hawk this ^{air} religion of hedonism, success, money, things, recreation. All geared to make us feel good, look good, do things to forget troubles (anesthetize against God).
- As adults - at work, in neighborhoods, the whole emphasis is on success, money, good looks, thin body, many things, expensive vacations for fun, ways to recreate and lots of sex - all kinds with many partners.

Q How do we keep from being conformed to this godless society? How do we "keep from being poured into its mold" - which is the exact opposite of God's wisdom (Rom. 12:1)?

I The first step is to give ourselves over to God completely and totally - give our bodies, our mind, will, and emotions, our whole life - sacrifice it to God. The words a "living and holy sacrifice" refer to the Old Testament sacrifice of being placed on the altar and being burned up, there was nothing left. When you give yourself totally and completely up to God as a sacrifice you don't get off the altar and take back your life and run it selfishly again, you leave it there on the altar to be transformed by Him into a fragrance of Christ, acceptable to God.

"Our life is hidden with Christ in God" reckon it true

This may sound frightening to you, but it is not. It's like coming home, God created you, He knows you the best, He's your loving Father, He protects you, cares for you, guides you, provides for you, gives you love, fills you with joy, deep contentment, peace, and a renewed zest for life with clear thinking, true values and goals that are fun to attain and fulfilling.

What is totally frightening is to be subjected to the World System and its values, its like a Roman gladiatorial arena, it tears you to pieces, you run in circles to escape being hurt, to win over someone else, you exhaust your strength competing for a fleeting moment of recognition, which is snatched away by someone else smarter and stronger. Sexual exploitation is a vicious game of one-up-man-ship which is very

Identify with Christ
Read Victorious Indwelling p. 74 Feb. 19

(L) destructive physically, psychologically, and emotionally. Getting rich and buying things turns bitter as soon as you get there - rich people are miserably unhappy and unfulfilled. Escapism is rampant to avoid thinking about the emptiness of all your frenzied activity-alcohol, drugs, sex, work, recreation. You do all those things in a frenzied fragmented way that leaves you exhausted and even more empty. There's no direction to life - even if you attain status with power and education, you climb the corporate ladder to what? Being replaced by someone younger, smarter, prettier, and you are forgotten, pushed aside, rejected, stomped on. For what purpose? To make the corporation grow - to benefit some illusory top management (who are nearly always crooks, i.e. Wall Street). In a word, the World System eats you up! It's designed by Satan to do so, to keep you so busy and fragmented and on the merry-go-round. Why? So you won't have time to think about God - about who you really are, why you are here at all, where you are going, about eternity, and lasting values. Doesn't that picture really frighten you? It should! That's so much worse in every way than giving yourself up to God and His good plans for your life. His will is good and acceptable

Result
World
God

Romans 12:1-2

Q's

How can we not be conformed to the world practically speaking? How can we develop resistance? Should we just drop out of society? Drop out of school? Quit work? (i.e. monk on a pole for 30 years, he was unstained by the world. This is just one more example of mankind's warped way of thinking.) Christ expressly forbade us to leave the world, we are to reach the world. So did Paul tell us to be "all things to all people in order to reach them for Christ". We are to aggressively take on the world.

Ans. =>

How to take on the World System

II Intellectually

(a) We have to hear what's being said and understand. Then we have to refute it powerfully and persuasively with gentleness. We have to do this in every area of our lives as we live in the world system. We must be thinking believers, when we understand and can refute the world's wisdom that makes us strong and persuasive (e.g. Paul, Jeremiah, Isaiah).

Examples

- Let's examine a few areas of our lives as practical examples.
1. What if you feel unloved? "No one loves me, I don't have a man and no one here in the Body is loving me right, I don't feel loved".

1. In the physical world, the things that are not visible to the eye are the things that are most important. The things that are most important are the things that are most important. The things that are most important are the things that are most important.

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How to take on the whole system

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→ World's wisdom - we react by thinking "I must find someone who does love me" so we go out looking and end up with someone who makes us feel good, not someone who is good or good for us. Or "I'll tell those girls they aren't loving me right, there's something wrong with them".

→ Transformed Mind - has a different response: "when and how have I been failing to give my love effectively? These relationships in my life, I must not be building into them properly"; a servant with a transformed mind understands that we feel love when we give love, "The Mind of Christ".

→ serving + loving sacrificially

2. What about knowing God's Will? To the un-transformed mind (young believer or carnal Christian) God's will is vague and nebulous, can't be understood.

→ The Un-Transformed Mind - This person is confused, trying to find the Will of God, may become fatalistic and say "I believe God is in control of my life, so the decisions I make are, in fact, God's will". This completely denies free will (Eph. 5) "don't be foolish, understand what the will of the Lord is." Others take a thoughtless attitude "God doesn't really care what I do" (Matt. 6).

→ The Transformed Mind - Paul says we are able to "discern all things". In most areas we can look in the Bible - all too obvious what God's will is in the Bible. This is possible because a mature Christian is acclimated to the Will of God, she knows the Word and sees from His point of view. It becomes easy to know God's will and walk in it.

- God's will becomes the path you want to follow and increasingly to follow

3. In the area of helping other people by example.

→ The Un-transformed Mind - when someone comes with problems the response is "I don't know what to say" or the advice and counsel is given without understanding the nature of mankind and God's solution to the problem.

→ The Transformed Mind - knows God's Solutions and how to bring healing. They are effectual in helping others grow and solve areas of immaturity, e.g. daughter comes in at 7:00 a.m. Why doesn't the mother deal with the problem? Embarrassed, pride, hurt but also not biblically able to deal with daughter, so ignores problem. This is not love-all she's saying to her daughter is "you'll get no help from me".

e.g. of mother in denial vs.

loving discipline to train child with God's values

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