

I hope you get the picture that you have to choose to be "thinking" out of one framework or the other as a believer. A nonbeliever has to think like the world.

To become mature spiritual women we need resistance to the world system, not getting conformed, ability to analyze and refute, i.e. encounter, understand, and refute.

The

INPUT

The crucial importance of our mental focus can not be overemphasized (Rom. 8:1-8; Col. 3:3; Phil. 4:8). (Prov. 23:7) "As a man/or woman thinks in his/her heart so is he/she" It all begins in the mind - actions.

EXAMPLE: Mental stew: old tennis shoe, will it be good?

Is it so hard then to understand that if we fill our minds with selfish desires, prideful thoughts, or lusts of all kinds that will flavor very much our attitudes and our actions. We can't always escape the world's input; selfish, lustful and prideful, but we can turn it around because we understand it. We can refute it, it poses no threat to us. We need positive input on a regular basis. Means of Growth: Word, prayer, fellowship, ministry, Holy Spirit. Give the Holy Spirit content as He transforms our mind, (Heb. 5:14) "not accustomed to the Word of righteousness." Our minds are like amazing computer terminals, fill yours with the Word for the Holy Spirit to use.

H.S. →
uses
The Word
to direct
& protect

CONTROL I Tim. 4 "discipline yourself for godliness"

There needs to be an element of control over our thinking. Many Bible passages illustrate but the best in (II Cor. 10:3-5) "every thought captive to Christ" (Jas 1:14-15) "lust leads us in to sin," reject, judge them, pray, turn over to Christ. As we do this we will begin to see bad patterns of thinking and acting be replaced. As we do this (pray, etc.) the Holy Spirit begins to replace the bad pattern with His perspective, the wisdom of God. You need a deep understanding of Grace and your Forgiveness, lots of Patience and Time for the HS to transform your mind.

Grace
Forgiveness
Transform
Mind
Renews

Eph. 4

OUTPUT

(Heb. 5:14) "senses not trained through practice to discern good and evil." In Phil. 2 - use this word for the benefit of others - this keeps it

use
to serve
others

- discipling
- involves time, patience - your very life
- BOE is basic unit for Christ through
- J.C. becomes all in all, His love permeates

UNTRANSFORMED MIND

4. In the area of Marriage - Philip Yancey "In America a consumer mentality tends to infiltrate relationships as well as commerce. Some people treat marriage partners like automobiles; every few years it's time to upgrade to a new model". Marriage - a committed lifetime relationship is just not understood nor believed in the western world today. To have a transformed mind we must see God's view of a healthy marriage.
- Leave your parents - cleave to one another and you become one flesh, completing one another.
 - God created marriage and it is reflected in the foundational structure of the church i.e. in (Eph. 1-4) Paul shows that God plans to work within the structure of the church to redeem the world - to love, to save, to mature, to discipline, to teach, on and on. In (Eph. 5) Paul defines marriage and the role of each member: the male and female. But even in this context Paul bases the marriage on the understanding of our relationships in the
 - BOC - "submitting to one another in love"
 - Submitting to Christ as the head is cf to our submitting to our husbands.
 - The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves us - unconditionally, sacrificially with an unlimited amount of love, never withdrawn, never conditional.

for a
godly
Marriage

That's why it is so important before marriage that you understand and experience Body Life in the church, it is the basic structure through which God is working. Stated another way: the health and understanding of your marriage is dependent on your healthy relationships in the B.O.C. - not vice versa.

In your relationship

- As you learn to give and receive from one another
- As you minister together in the BOC
- As you listen to and accept the counsel of older mature believers
- As your love relationship with Christ deepens you are getting prepared to experience and build a great Christian marriage, one that will last.
- A marriage that will express the BOC in a small unit, you, your husband, your children, and all who enter your frame of reference.
AND you will not become tribal, removing yourself from BOC, becoming self-sufficient and autonomous.
- Home will be so attractive to unbelievers they will want to know Christ as you do. A godly home is a powerful testimony for your transformed life as a spiritual woman

fresh and real in our own hearts. E.g. Marriage - To have transformed minds we must see God's view of a healthy marriage. These are the things to have before you get married. You need to understand and experience Body Life in the church. We root this theoretically and theologically in the New Testament. I.e. marriage is not the fundamental unit that God has designed - it is not the foundational structure that God is giving to work within. Rather, the foundational most redemptive structure God has made is the Church. God plans to redeem all things through the church (Eph. 1-4). When we get to (Eph. 5) Paul talks about marriage relationship but even here he founds our marriage on the understanding of our submission to one another in the Body of Christ.

Let me repeat the most basic fundamental structure God has placed here on earth is the church not marriage. Stated another way: the health of your marriage is dependent on your healthy relationships in the Body, not vice-versa! This is not understood in western churches. This is why an understanding and experience of Body Life is imperative for a healthy marriage - a couple that has learned to give and receive from the Body is miles ahead as far as their marriage goes. Because of your backgrounds you just don't believe this. You may even be living in a ministry house and be learning to relate in the Body. But then you get married, and we just don't see you any more. This is not because you are working on your marriage, it's because you don't believe that the health of your marriage depends upon your taking your life from the Body of Christ not each other. Actually your spiritual life goes downhill. The sad thing about this is 5 years (or less) down the road you'll be miserable in your marriage wondering why.

Steps:

1. So you need to have a healthy understanding of Body Life - both giving and receiving .
2. Listen to counsel from mature members of the Body. In the heat of passion objectivity is out the window. So listen t those who are mature and get tips from them for after marriage.

Remember the health of your marriage depends upon your taking your life from Christ and the BOC, not each other. If you focus entirely on each other you will be disappointed, start fighting, spiritual life will go downhill fast.

The Result: try to salvage marriage by getting a new house, having a baby, getting more things, going more places, working outside the home. 3-5 years down the road you'll be miserable and wondering why. You will be prime candidates for having an affair and then divorce, or misery living together.