

THINK DIFFERENTLY

Part 1: About God

THERE ARE ADVANTAGES TO DIFFERENT THINKING

- A. Mindset: A habitual or characteristic mental attitude that determines how you will interpret and respond to situations**
- B. Thinking differently . . .**
 - 1. Can break us out of limitations and ruts
 - 2. Impacts how we experience life
 - 3. Is viewed as a necessary component in any performance related endeavor
- C. The Christian disconnect**
 - 1. The thought that spiritual things, church, the Bible, sermons etc... only relate to a very small portion of our lives
 - 2. We live in a spiritual world that is superior in existence but not sensory dominant
 - 3. Our thinking about God has been too often focused on His neutrality or negativity
- D. Readjusting our thinking / mindset (*Isaiah 55:7-9 NKJV*)**
 - 1. A willingness to acknowledge that our thinking has been impacted by darkness
 - 2. A willingness to acknowledge that God's ways and thoughts are higher / better

JESUS GIVES A PICTURE OF GOD (*John 8:2-12 NKJV*)

- A. Jesus did not side in with the condemning crowd - He never represented group think**
 - 1. He could have gone letter of the law
- B. Neither did Jesus lash out at the condemning crowd**
 - 1. He did not expose their sins - allowed their own conscience to handle that
- C. Jesus showed compassion to a guilty anonymous woman**
 - 1. Women were treated poorly and a guilty woman had no one to stand for her
 - 2. In His care for her He instructed her to stop sinning
- D. Jesus made a bold claim that He was the light of the world - and we could follow Him**
 - 1. To show love, compassion and mercy is a light in a dark world dominated by hate, selfishness and harshness

WAYS TO BEGAN TO THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT GOD

- A. Recognize that Jesus revealed God's heart toward you**
 - 1. Put yourself in this story - is Jesus standing with you or with the accuser?
 - 2. God is much more interested in saving than punishing (*John 3:17 NKJV*)
- B. Thank God for who He is (*Psalms 118:1 NKJV*)**
 - 1. The scriptures reveal Him to be good and rich in mercy
 - 2. Expressing gratitude makes His goodness and mercy more of a reality
- C. Began to intentionally change your expectations**
 - 1. Too often we are expecting nothing or dreading what's around the corner
 - 2. Because God is good I am expecting good and expecting mercy (*Psalms 23:6 NKJV*)