

Thinking Outside of the Box

Phil 2:1-5a

Intro: The purpose of this message is to stir your thinking to a re-energized level of relationship with God. Let me illustrate what I mean by the term "Box Thinking". A box is a _____ container used to keep its content from getting out. Often we put _____ into a "spiritual box" in our thinking, and are not willing to allow the Holy Spirit to bring us out of _____ "box".

Examples of "box thinking":

- "We had better use our _____ sense!"
- "This is how, or this is not how we have done it in the _____."
- "But my _____ tell me."
- "But I was _____ to...."
- "But I do not feel _____...."
- "But what if it doesn't work?"
- "But how will that make me look to _____?"

These are all examples of "_____ " thinking. We will look at this concept more fully in just a moment. First let us look at our text passage.

I. Philippians 2:1-5a

- A. Consolation in Christ
- B. Comfort of love
- C. Fellowship of the Spirit
- D. Bowels of mercy
- E. Like-minded
- F. Nothing done through strife or vainglory
- G. Lowliness of mind
- H. Esteem other better than themselves

What kind of _____ is this?

I. **The _____**: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" Vs 5a

1. This is _____ of the box thinking
2. This is _____ thinking

II. Box thinking illustrated.

- A. 2 Cor. 10:12- _____ ourselves with others.
- B. 1 Sam. 8:5, 19-20-be like _____ else.
 1. It makes good sense _____ everybody else has one.
 2. This is how it is supposed to be done _____ everyone else is doing it.
- C. Col. 2:8, 16- _____ others determine your thinking and behavior.
 1. Where does the _____ fit in?
 2. How can one have God and people as their master at the _____ time?

III. Out of the Box thinking illustrated.

- A. 1 Sam. 12:1, 13-15, 22-25
 1. Focus on and _____ the Lord.
 2. Serve Him in _____ to his Word with all your heart.
 3. Don't _____ against the Lord's commands by disobeying.
 4. Remind yourself of how good God has been to you.
 5. Don't forget that rebellion against God will bring His _____.
- B. 1 Cor. 4:1-4-Not worrying by what _____ think or say about your service to God.
- C. 2 Cor. 10:3-5-Analyze my thought life in every area in light of God's truth in His word.
 1. _____ my thoughts to agree with Scripture.
 2. Where my thoughts do not agree, allow the Holy Spirit to _____ them and me.

- D. 2 Cor. 12:7-10-The challenges and difficulties that come into my life and the life of those I love are allowed by God so that we might _____ his grace and power in our life more fully.
- E. Phil. 4:8-Inventory my thought life on a _____ basis.

Concl. Isa 55:6-11:

Vs 6- _____ God and call upon Him.

Vs 7- _____ your wicked ways—those ways that are **not** in agreement with Scripture.

- _____ your unrighteous thoughts—those thoughts that are not in agreement with Scripture.

- _____ to God because:

-He will be merciful.

-He will forgive and pardon.

Vs 8-God does not think in a _____, nor does He live in one.

Vs 9-God's way of thinking is far _____ to ours.

Vs 10-11-God's Word produces life and spiritual success in the life of the obedient Believer.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5