

Beware of Critical Thinking

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Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Intro: It has been almost two years since we spoke on the subject of critical thinking, but it is a subject that weighs heavy on my heart and needs to be addressed some more.

- I. To be a critical thinker has become some kind of badge of honor in this generation that does not even know which bathroom to use.
 - A. It is absurd that people who have absolutely lost their way in every area of life would boast of being a “critical thinkers” as if that signified their superior intelligence.
 - B. It is a smokescreen for their rebellion against God and righteousness, and it is a means to try to justify their indulgent, sinful hearts, and wicked, lawless behavior.
 - C. The common concept of “critical thinking” among worldly, as well as professing Christian people, is simply to try to find a way to negate any kind of truth that goes against their pride, or their opinions, lifestyle, or carnal desires.
 - D. Critical thinking is a trap of the devil when it is not firmly founded on the truth of God as it is found in the written Word of Go.
 - E. The modern concept of critical thinking is exactly like what the devil encouraged Eve to do in the garden.
 - F. The critical thinking I have observed in those who pride themselves in it, never leads to a purer or more holy life, and closer walk with God, but always leads to permissiveness, promiscuity, and general looseness of morals and behavior, and worldly involvement.
 - G. It also leads to absolute uncertainty about everything, and leaves people totally lost and without any moorings, or waypoints, or landmarks, or sense of direction at all.
 - H. Critical thinking without the foundation of God’s truth is what has lead the world and the churches into the lost and hopeless state that we see right now.
 - I. Here is the definition of “critical thinking”:

Critical thinking is the analysis of facts to form a judgment. [1] The subject is complex, and several different definitions exist, which generally include the rational, skeptical, unbiased analysis, or evaluation of factual evidence. Critical thinking is self-directed, self-disciplined, self-monitored, and self-corrective thinking.

CRITICAL means Inclined to find fault, or to judge with severity.

SCEP'TIC, n. 1. One who doubts the truth and reality of any principle or system of principles or doctrines. In philosophy, a Pyrrhonist or follower of Pyrrho, the founder of a sect of sceptical philosophers, who maintained that no certain inferences can be drawn from the reports of the senses, and who therefore doubted of every thing.

Luke 12:29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

- J. So simply by reading the definition we can see that it is contrary to the Word of God and the Spirit of God, and contradicts the identifying mark of Christian character, which is charity.
 - K. We can see that self is made the finally authority in what is true and what is false, which is to make oneself a god.
 - L. In order to do this there must be a spirit of rebellion against all authority and established truth.
- II. Parents who want to teach their children to be critical thinkers should first teach their children how to simply think.
- A. It is an obvious fact that most people do not even know how to think anymore, let alone to take upon themselves to criticize everything and everyone from history and the present, and even God himself.
 - B. Example is the strongest influence, so the children first learn how to think from their parents.
 - C. What happens is that the child gets most of the attention when he is not yet able to think, and when he does start thinking he is shoved aside or put in front a TV or an IPAD to entertain himself, because it is more convenient for the parent.
 - 1. So as he amuses himself he learns to live without thinking.
 - 2. He is never put in a situation where he has to.
 - D. So parents should do things with their children that require and teach them to reason and think and work with things as they are in reality, not a fantasy on a screen.
 - 1. Avoid phones, TV, IPADS, and video games.
 - 2. Play games that involve thought, strategy, reasoning. (chess, checkers, etc.)
 - 3. Have them put puzzles together, or build things out of Lincoln Logs, Tinker Toys, or lock blocks, etc.
 - E. Parents should teach their children to live in the realm of the real world and not in the world's fantasies which are saturated with evil and demonic imagery.
 - 1. Give them cardboard boxes to play with, or tools to dig in the dirt.
 - 2. Give little boys tools to play with instead of dolls of demons and monsters.
 - 3. Give little girls baby dolls and little kitchens and dishes to play with instead of unicorns, Barbie dolls, and other things that encourage them to think worldly, sexy, make-believe nonsense.
 - F. It is when they are very small that they learn how to think and unless God works a miracle in their soul it will take them down roads that will wreck destruction in their lives.
- III. The first qualification for sound thinking and reasoning is truth.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, ...think on these things.

- A. If we are going to be critical thinkers we must have a standard by which to discern truth besides our own preferences, prejudices, and priorities.
- B. Truth must be objective – not subjective.
 - 1. Truth is not truth if it can be modified to our liking.
 - 2. Truth is static, meaning it stays the same, forever.
- C. So then everything we entertain in our mind must be governed by truth; the truth of God, and God's ways.

- D. A true and honest critical thinker will not accept a lie because he is grounded in truth.
- E. You can usually identify a lie by the direction it is leading you.
 - 1. Truth will never lead you to lower standards of righteousness.
 - 2. Truth will draw you nearer to God and purity and righteousness, never in the opposite direction.

James 3:13-15 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

- F. The Spirit of Truth will never rebuke you for being TOO holy, TOO pure, TOO righteous, or TOO close to God.
 - 1. It would be the king of all liars, or one of his minions, who would do that.
- G. A true critical thinker will be a spiritually minded thinker whose thinking is governed by the Word of God and the wisdom of God.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

- H. We have an eternal Book that is God's revealed truth and with the help of the Spirit of God, through faith in God, we can know and be assured of all matters in this world and the world to come.
- I. To question in order to find the truth is not wrong, but to seek to deny or overturn truth by questioning is a game of the devil.
- J. To search for truth because you want to believe the truth is the way of life, but to search for a way around the truth by pretending to be searching for truth is hypocrisy and a lie.