

Theme: Living in the world with the mind of Christ puts us in opposition to the ways, ideals and desires of the world. But it also leads to a peace that passes understanding as we discern, obey and rest in the will of God.

Background / Introduction / Review:

1. I can't always trust my thoughts. I can always trust God's Word.
2. Feed your mind well. (Phil 4:8)

I. Resist the World's Mold

A. *Not Conformed*

1. Israel lost its way (2 Kings 17:16ff)
 - Conforming to the nations
 - With dreadful consequences
2. A danger to the church
 - False teachers
 - Keeping watch
3. Compromise (with the world) is impossible

A Tough Question?? Where have I conformed to the world, likely without noticing it?

B. *But Transformed*

1. Renewing the mind (2 Corinthians 3:18)
 - Being “transformed”
 - a. The work of the Spirit
 - b. The work of the Word
2. The Will of God
 - a) “Prove” it!
 - discern and determine to obey
 - Know and Do!
 - b) Good, acceptable (pleasing), perfect

II. Live By Conviction

- A. Fixed on what is true (Colossians 3:2)
 - Have an eternal perspective

II. Live By Conviction (cont.)

B. Forming strong convictions (*Pursuit of Holiness*, Jerry Bridges)

1. Is it helpful? (1 Corinthians 6:12)
 - Permissible vs. Helpful
 - Helpful physically, spiritually, mentally, relationally
2. Does it have power over me? (1 Corinthians 6:12)
 - Permitted but not mastered by it

A Tough Question: Does this drive my decisions, actions? Does it exert control over other obligations (spiritual, relational, vocational)??

3. Does it hurt others? (1 Corinthians 8:13)
 - Do I exercise my freedom in Christ, even if it hurts others?
4. Does it Glorify God? (1 Corinthians 10:31)
 - Is God glorified in this thought?
 - in this desire?
 - in these words?
 - in this activity (whether at my eyes, ears)

III. Learn to Pray – Continuously (Philippians 4:6,7)

- Don't worry about anything. Pray about everything.
- To have mind of Christ – stay in constant conversation with him

IV. Live in Union and Communion with Christ

Are you convinced:

- Christ has risen from the dead – and you will be raised
- Nothing can separate you from the love of Christ
- He will never leave you nor forsake you
- You have been filled with the Holy Spirit that you might know the truth – and walk in it.
- That the Word of God is living, active and sharper than any two edged sword.