

## THINKING AS A CHRISTIAN - PART TWO

1. Text: Philippians 4:6-9
2. Our last lesson dealt with four of the eight traits Paul told Christians to think about in verse 8. This lesson will deal with the last four.
3. Our thinking comes out in what we do and say. Charles Allen wrote, "The within is ceaselessly becoming the without." Matthew 12:34 says "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." Matthew 7:20 says "By their fruits you will know them." What we are thinking is seen in what we say and do.
4. Paul challenged Christians in Romans 12:2 to be "transformed by the renewing of their minds." Psalm 19:14 "Let the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O lord."
5. Here then are the last four principles.

### I. **Think On Things That Are Lovely.**

1. Meaning: attractive, winsome, pleasing, beautiful, appealing, that which calls forth love.
2. Opposite: criticism, bitterness, resentment, vengeance, gross, rude, ugly.
3. Only time in New Testament. Example: Christ.
4. Lovely things: kindness, sympathy, forbearance, gentleness.
5. Apply:

### II. **Think On Things That Are Of Good Report.**

1. Meaning: literally "fair-speaking" whatever has a good name, things fit for God to hear.
2. Opposite: false reports, bad reports, ugly, false words, gossip, talebearing, things that just do not need to be said or reported.
3. This trait deals powerfully with the passion within us to communicate. It stresses what we should think about before we communicate.
4. Apply:

### III. **Think On What Is Excellent.**

1. "If there be any virtue" This word (arete) is the word for excellence. It was the word in the Greek world for every kind of excellence - mental, physical, moral. For instance, it was used of the ground in a field, a carpenter's tool, courage of a soldier, virtue of a man.
2. It's used here and in I Peter 2:9 (God's excellencies) and II Peter 1:3 (called us by glory and virtue)
3. Here is the challenge to think beyond the commonplace, ordinary, mediocre.
4. "Excellence is the gradual result of always wanting to do better." Pat Riley
5. Apply:

### IV. **Think On What Is Praiseworthy.**

1. Meaning: That which can be appreciated, of universal human approval, what deserves your praise, that which should be recognized.
2. II Corinthians 8:18 speaks of a brother who had praise throughout all the churches.
3. William James wrote, "The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated."
4. Opposite: searching for things to criticize, condemn, argue about. Spirit of finding the negative, pessimistic qualities in anything. Question always: What's wrong with this?
5. Apply:

Conclusion:

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings  
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