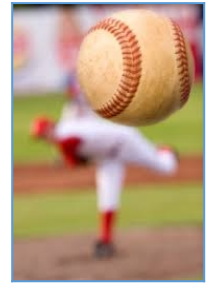


# Keep Your Eye On The Ball!



## Pursuing Our Biblical Mandate in a Godless Culture

Part 5. Mind Your Mind!

Andy Chappell

### Introduction:

MAIN IDEA: We must consistently “Think Biblically and Respond Christianly!”

Exploration: Revival Under Nehemiah and Ezra (Nehemiah 8,9) “The Impact of God’s Word in Revival”

### A. Why is Our Thinking/Mindset So Important?

1. Our thinking drives our actions. To change our actions we must first re-aligning our thinking.
2. Our thinking either puts us into alignment with God’s will, our own fleshly desires, or the world system.

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*“I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.** As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.”*

*(The Prayer of Jesus as recorded in John 17:14-19, ESV)*

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### B. Why Do We Think as We Do?

1. Because the unregenerate mind is naturally darkened. (See Ephesians 4:17-18; Colossians 1:21; Titus 1:15)
  - *“For those who live according to the flesh set their **minds** on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their **minds** on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to set the **mind** on the flesh is death, but to set the **mind** on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the **mind** that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot.” (Romans 8:5-7 ESV)*
  - *“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to **understand** them because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14 ESV)*
  - *“In their case the god of this world has blinded the **minds** of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV)*
  - *“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, **carrying out the desires of the body and the mind**, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” (Ephesians 2:1-3 ESV)*
2. Because the immature Christian mind and actions are still fleshly and worldly.

- *But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, <sup>3</sup> for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and **behaving** only in a human way? (1 Corinthians 3:1-3 ESV)*
- *Brothers, do not be children in your **thinking**. Be infants in evil, but in your **thinking** be mature. (1 Corinthians 14:20 ESV)*

3. Because the world system is constantly conditioning us (even as Christians) to follow its agenda.

- *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your **mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2 ESV)*

### C. Worthy Examples of Biblical Thinking and Responses (Daniel & Friends)

1. Conflicting cultural directives (Daniel 1 – Diplomatic Diet Suggestion)
2. Bowing down to a graven image (Daniel 3 – The Fiery Furnace)
3. Praying to any other god or man besides the king (Daniel 6 – The Lions’ Den)



**When asked for our position or opinion we must learn to say:**

*“My opinion isn’t important. It’s God’s opinion that really matters. What does the Bible say about that?”*

### Plan of Action:

1. Saturate yourself with the reading and studying of God’s Word.
2. Surround yourself with, and seek counsel from mature believers who know God’s Word and can help you to think biblically and respond Christianly.
3. Evaluate and re-align your positions on the truths of God’s Word rather than others’ opinions. *(Protecting the unborn, Blessing Israel, Traditional Marriage, Divine establishing the rule of law, etc...)*
4. Think biblically and respond Christianly in order to express God’s positions on issues to others.
5. Vote for political platforms and candidates that best represent a biblical worldview which most glorifies God. (<https://www.myfaithvotes.org/party-platforms>)
6. Prepare yourself to be rejected by nonChristians, family members and even fellow Christians for aligning yourself with biblical positions and actions.

### Ponder Point

To what degree are you willing to think biblically, and respond Christianly to face both the positive blessings and the negative consequences of doing so?