

# **Renewing the Mind**

*John Crawford*

I. We are all programmed and need to change our thinking patterns.

A. We all like certain things.

B. We all have to change our thinking patterns, however, because we have a negative bent in some area. (Rom 12:1-2)

C. We all have a sin nature and fall short of the glory of God.

1. We are not just sinners saved by grace; we are now saints that sometimes sin.

D. We all have thought patterns that product fruit. (Proverbs 23:7; Jeremiah 6:19)

E. By nature man's heart is negative. (Matt 7:13-14)

F. All of our lives belong to Christ. (1 Corinthians 7:17)

II. How are thought patterns changed?

A. We need to look for the changes that thinking another thought will bring.

B. Learn to turn your thoughts around.

C. There is a war going on in our minds. (Rom 7:21-23)

D. We all need to change our schedules and spend more daily time reading the Bible.

E. We need new thoughts that change our behavior.

1. Renewing our minds. (Romans 12:1-2)

2. Let the mind of Christ be in you. (Philippians 2:5)

3. When we get God's mind in our hearts we think God's thoughts.

a. All the law is fulfilled in one word. (Galatians 5:14)

b. Love is the greatest commandment. (Matt 22:37-40)

c. Successful businesses are catching on to this idea of love by serving customers.

d. How do you want to be treated? Then treat others that way.

e. We need to think new thoughts.

### III. Question and Answer Session:

#### A. How do Christians relate to the world?

1. Christians aren't going to be conformed to worldliness of sin.
2. Christians need to be careful not to be conformed to worldly thinking by putting the negative first. We need to break the pattern of negative thinking.

#### B. What is our guideline for thinking new thoughts?

1. How did you get to this conference? Probably by seeing a brochure.
2. Our basic guiding brochure is discipleship. Christians are to produce new believers who will produce others.

#### C. Can we go too far in emphasizing positive thinking?

1. We must realize who we're talking with.
2. If a Christian wants to stick only with singing hymns we shouldn't try to change him.
3. Some oil investors only get paid if they find oil.
  - a. If the plan doesn't work then no one should invest in it.
  - b. If the plan works then invest in it, and the plan of evangelism works.

#### D. How do we help children think new thoughts?

1. Use storybooks.
2. Put in their minds daily devotions from the Bible even before they understand words.

#### E. How is the acceptance of an immoral person by the world different from the acceptance of an immoral Christian by another Christian?

1. An immoral person doesn't bother the world much.
2. A Christian was leaving his wife, yet he was my friend, so I stayed with him.

#### F. What steps do you take in order to think new thoughts (since just reading the Bible is not enough)?

1. Read books about people who have influenced the world.
  - a. Dr. Deming changed Japan by introducing quality checks to the assembly line.
  - b. Sam Walton started Wall Mart.
2. Read the Bible.

G. What is your Scripture memory system?

1. Choose one or two pivotal verses that stand out (John 3:16; 5:24)
2. Start with the Navigator system (Beginning With Christ, Topical Memory System, Word Hand Illustration, On Your Own packs)
3. Use memory cards to write out your own.

H. Think on things that are worthy of believers. (Philippians 4:8)

III. Conclusion.

A. Follow the calling God has on your life. (1 Corinthians 7:17)

1. No calling of God is any better than another calling.
2. Following God in evangelism does not make up for disobedience in some other area of life.
3. The obedient Christian can call on God for help in time of need.
  - a. Obey God and you can pray over needs the same way you can pray over souls.
  - b. Disobey God and even the work of evangelism doesn't work.

B. A welder is more effective in his calling than a welder who is masquerading as a preacher.