

A renewed mind is a new orientation for the thinking process and the values that are set for living. It is the process by which, in our text, we are transformed from the likeness of the world to the likeness of what God wants to see in us.. It is part of the enactment of grace whereby we are able to present ourselves to God and live for Him. In giving ourselves we place ourselves in a position where the mind is energized according to the Spirit. We are troubled with the concept of people who are saved having worldly minds...and that may not be the best way to say it....but I John warns us not to love the world nor the things that are in the world and it would seem he is implying that this sort of false love may happen if we are not careful. In this matter, then, it is important to allow the mind to be renewed after the pattern of the new creations which we are in Christ.

II. Discussion: I know that the renewing of the mind is not so easy as it may sound when preachers shout it but the following concepts help me in my understanding and practice (and I need a lot of help):

A. Model it (the mind) after the mind of Christ

The concept of the mind of Christ has two aspects: 1) to know what He wants us to do and 2) to think in the way He thought. It is this latter that is our concern at this time. Philippians 2:5-8 show us that the mind of Christ is a way of thinking that is unselfish, serving, humble, and yielded. A similar emphasis is seen in 1 Peter 4:1-2. The Lord's example allows us to come to any point and say..."would He have thought like this" and while we may not have the power of total compliance, we do have access to the grace we need to grow. Our identification with Him suggests that we aim to think in the way that He thought and to have the same values in our thinking as those that marked the Lord.

B. Fill it (the mind) with the right things:

Philippians 4 gives us a list of the right things to think about and if we concentrate on those things we are certainly off on a good start. 1 Timothy 4:11ff offers similar good advice. Note in James 1 how putting sinful thoughts into the mind leads to ruin and disaster. The aspect I work with is the desire that the mind not be a repository for bad things. Those areas where we should confess and turn to God should be acted upon and the mind should be allowed to dwell on healthy things.