

Loving God in the Real World
Loving God with All Your Mind
2 Corinthians 10:3-5
GCF – October 25, 2009

I. Introduction

My last two messages have been on loving God with all your mind.

I am going to resist the temptation to review everything so if you missed those messages just go to our web site at www.gcfportland.org and you can listen to them again.

I will, however, remind you that to love God with your entire mind is to line your thinking up with what the Scriptures teach us about God, ourselves and the world around us.

We have all developed our own way of thinking about ourselves, God and others, but we need to humble ourselves before the Lord and be willing to readjust our thinking.

“Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Romans 12:2, NLT)

One further thing I would like to mention, before we dig into the Scriptures together is that I am convinced this is one of the major issues facing you today. I have sensed much spiritual warfare when I have been preaching about this.

“...letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.” (Romans 8:6, NLT)

We must take seriously our need to love God with our entire mind.

“We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. 4 We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. 5 We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5, NLT)

Let's look at the strongholds of the mind you suggested a few weeks ago.

II. Tearing Down Strongholds

[Discuss together with the entire congregation]

a. Influences of music, television, boyfriends, friends, etc.

1 Corinthians 5:6 & 15:33-34; Proverbs 13:20

b. Checking to make sure I am still loved by boyfriends, girlfriends, friends, family

Psalm 27:10; 36:7; Psalm 109:4-5; Isaiah 54:10; Ephesians 1:3-5

c. Putting others, family, friends, work before God

Luke 14:26; Exodus 20:3-6; Psalm 73:25-28

d. I'm broken.

Jeremiah 31:3-5; Psalm 147:3; Isaiah 57:15

e. Pleasing others in order to be loved.

1 Samuel 15:24; John 12:42-43; Galatians 2:11-13

f. If I share the Word or talk about Jesus with others, especially strangers, people will think I'm weird, I'll be rejected, looked at weird, etc.

Jeremiah 44:16; Matthew 5:10-12; Acts 6:40-42

g. Life is boring without some sort of "high", ie. shopping, food, entertainment, indulgence

Isaiah 22:12-14; 56:12; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Corinthians 11:22-28

h. Identity is based on the external in my life.

Matthew 23:27-28; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 1 Peter 3:3-4

i. Seeing people as objects

Genesis 1:26-27, 31; Ephesians 2:10; Exodus 21:10-11

j. Not willing to ask for help

Psalm 10:4; 86:5; Isaiah 30:19; James 5:13-15; Matthew 7:7-8

k. Victim mentality – the world owes me something; not willing to take responsibility for our choices and actions

Genesis 4:6-7; Deuteronomy 30:19-20; Hosea 4:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12; Proverbs 13:4