



Winning the Mind Wars Part 2

Review

- There is a satanic attack being waged against our mind.
- We can and must win that war based by “thinking about what we’re thinking about.”
- We must be gatekeepers of our minds and intentionally renew them.

Paul’s Concern

- 2 Corinthians 11:3
 - Paul is concerned for believers being deceived by Satan and having their minds corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
 - Believers are not only exempt from Satanic mind wars; they are also the target of Satanic mind wars! Our minds must get renewed!
 - If our minds are going to be renewed we need to know from what.
 - Carnal, corrupt, darkened, and debased minds.

The Carnal Mind

The Source

- Romans 8:5–8
 - Carnal mind: The natural human mind with all of its broken, rebellious, sinful frailties.
 - The carnal mind:
 - Sets itself on the things of the flesh. It has a fixed opinion that carnal thinking is right.
 - Produces death—nothing good awaits the carnal mind.
 - Is enmity against God—hostile toward, opposes and hates God.
 - It is not subject to God—not submitted, obedient or mindful of the things of God.

What the Carnal Mind Produces

- Paul was heartbroken over the carnally, earthly minded people
 - Philippians 3:18–19
- Snapshots of the carnal mind:
 - Ephesians 2:1–3
 - The carnal mind is under (subject to) worldly, full of Satanic, influence.
 - The carnal mind leads to fulfilling carnal desires and experiencing the wrath of God.
 - Living with a natural, carnal mind doesn’t end well.
 - Ephesians 4:17–24
 - Futile (empty, worthless, useless) in their minds.

- Darkened in their understanding, obscuring God's will and ways.
- Alienated from life of God. They are estranged from life, blessing, and peace of God.
- Ignorance results from a prolonged understanding becoming darkened, and futile.
- Blind of heart-stupidity, callousness, hardness of heart (mind).
- Become apathetic, numb, and uncaring.
- People give themselves over to surrender and cave in to all manner of sin.
- This mental decline, and all it produces, starts with an unguarded, carnal mind.
- Paul shouts to believers:
 - Verse 17: No longer walk like the rest of gentiles
 - Verse 20-21: Jesus hasn't taught us to live like that!
 - Verse 22: Put off the old man, the old nature, old mind, and the old thoughts.
 - Verse 23-24: Renew your mind, put on the new man, new mind, and new thoughts.

How Quickly Our Minds Can Change

- Matthew 16:13-17
 - Peter has a spiritual revelation from the Father about Jesus and Peter is blessed.
- Matthew 16:21-23
 - Between these two events, Peter was having carnal thoughts.
 - Satanically inspired thoughts incubated in his carnal mind and gave birth to ungodly words that were offensive to Jesus.
 - His words were not rooted in the things of God.
 - It happened that quickly after a spiritual revelation. We must guard our minds!
 - "The scripture does not order the carnal mind to be sanctified, but mortified and crucified; dealt with as a wild beast. . . Where the carnal mind rules, the soul is dead; dead to God... The regenerate have both a spiritual and carnal mind; the unregenerate only a carnal mind."¹ Rev. John Berridge, English evangelist, revivalist and hymnist, 1700s
 - If we're not dealing with our carnal mind as a wild beast that needs to be contained or killed, we will live by its carnal ways where selfish, insecure, manipulative, unforgiving, vengeful, angry, bitter, negative, jealous, lustful, licentious thoughts rule us. When those thoughts rule us, they will wreak havoc in us and every relationship we have.
 - When the carnal mind rules:
 - We will lack the peace of God.
 - Our relationship with the world will be unholy.
 - Our relationship with God will be hindered.
 - Our relationship with loved ones will be strained to the point of breaking.
 - Remember, Believer, it is possible for us to believe in our hearts while losing the war in our minds.

¹ Rev. John Berridge, *The Works of the Rev. John Berridge*, (London, Simpkin, Marshall, and Company, 1838), 115

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- If you have identified carnal thinking in your life, it is time to repent, receive forgiveness and start being a gatekeeper of your mind renewing thoughts according to the new person you are in Christ, based in holiness and all righteousness.
 - We can and must win these mind wars. If we don't win the war over our carnal mind, a corrupt mind (out topic next week) will follow.