

Doctrine of Sin #3

Okay, here we go! Welcome back! Today is Part 3 - Sin Doctrine and one of my favorite topics --
- MENTAL ATTITUDE!

1) What is sin?

Three types and three ways:

- A) Imputed, Inherited, Personal Sin
- B) Mental, Tongue Overt

Today we will focus on the subject of *Mental Attitude Sins*, but first:

2) How has this study made you feel so far?

Good teaching will always bring conviction. That is the idea of learning --- to improve in some area. In terms of faith, we learn to be more faithful; in areas of obedience, we learn to be more faithful, etc. These studies are meant to bring out of the shadows sins that hide under the cover of lack of knowledge.

If we do not understand the nature of our sin, it is easier to excuse. So, when we find out, we get convicted. We can no longer excuse it.

II Corinthians 10:4-5 'For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, '

3) What is a stronghold?

We are about to study several mental attitudes, during which I will ask each person how a stronghold could be formed around these attitudes. But first:

from "Grace Notes", page 5

Mental Attitude Sins

As a believer progresses in his Christian life, he experiences many profound changes in his thinking. His standards change gradually but radically; his frame of reference changes; his mental attitude soon becomes very different from what it once was. His previous way of thinking is replaced by the "mind of Christ", and God's viewpoint is becoming his own.

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- 4) What should a person do if they recognize one or more of these behaviors in themselves?

from "Grace Notes", page 6

Characteristics of the Believer's Mental Attitude

The true character of a believer in Jesus Christ is determined by his mental attitude. Prov. 23:7, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he"

- 5) What does it mean to be worldly?

from "Grace Notes", page 6

True Christian inner peace is a mental attitude. It is the relaxed mental state which enables one to enjoy the Christian life regardless of people or outward circumstances. With a good mental attitude, the believer can be joyful, relaxed, and can even enjoy the battle.....

from "Grace Notes", page 6-7

Human Viewpoint (HVP) vs Divine Viewpoint (DVP)

Thinking requires words - vocabulary. Divine thinking requires divine vocabulary. "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Under any kind of spiritual pressure, human vocabulary, or human thinking, is not adequate. Only God's words can give the ability to think correctly under pressure. The Christian's ability to think correctly is based on how much Bible teaching is resident (applied) in the soul of the believer.

Human Viewpoint is our normal. Divine Viewpoint supplants that, and can only happen if we know, understand and apply God's Word.

- 6) What have you learned today?

from "Grace Notes", page 8

Mental Attitude and the Believer's Ministry

The mature believer "thinks Grace", which is the "mind of Christ". Therefore, the Christian's life and personality are characterized by many of the qualities of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 8:29; Gal. 5:22 ff. In every one of these characteristics the Christian has one basic ingredient - correct thinking according to divine viewpoint. 1 Pet. 3:8.....

Therefore, the mature believer is gentle, compassionate, caring, and has a gracious attitude toward others. These are essential life qualities in any believer who is a good witness for Christ. With these qualities, and with the knowledge of the Word of God being acquired on the way to maturity, the believer cannot help but be an outstanding witness for Christ and a skillful practitioner in the use of his spiritual gifts.

Next week, *Sins of the Tongue.*