

Trait # 1

A BIBLICAL MINDSET

WHAT EXACTLY IS A “BIBLICAL MINDSET”?

Proverbs 2:1-11/ Proverbs 3:5-7/ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- ✓ Letting the Bible guide my **thinking** & **actions**.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

- ❶ Ignorance isn't all it's **cracked up to be**.
Proverbs 29:18/ Leviticus 4:13-14, 22-23 & 27-28/ Romans 1:18-32/ John 8:31-32
- ❷ The path of wisdom & success is often **counter-intuitive**.
Proverbs 14:12/ Psalm 119:97-100, 105/ Proverbs 3:5-7
- ❸ Growth & change always starts **between the ears**.
Romans 12:1-2/ Ephesians 4:22-24

HOW TO DEVELOP & MAINTAIN A BIBLICAL MINDSET

- ❶ Make it a **priority**.
Proverbs 2:1-11
- ❷ Find your personal **learning style**.
Psalm 119:11/ Nehemiah 8:7-8
- ❸ Stay connected to **other Christians**.
Colossians 3:16/ Hebrews 10:24-25
- ❹ Obey what you **already know**.
John 13:17/ Romans 1:28/ Proverbs 4:18-19

A Biblical Mindset

Food for Thought for the week of September 11, 2005

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This weekend we started a new series that will help us identify what it takes to be an effective Christian and make a difference in our world. When you think of a mature Christian, what character qualities or attributes come to mind?

What habits, practices or disciplines, if any, have you used to develop any of those character qualities in your own life?

What are some obstacles or challenges that you may face as you mature spiritually? See James 1:2-4 and Philippians 3:12-21.

James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, [3] because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. [4] Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. [NIV]

Philippians 3:12-21

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. [13] Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, [14] I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. [15] All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. [16] Only let us live up to what we have already attained. [17] Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. [18] For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. [19] Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. [20] But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, [21] who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. [NIV]

2. Pastor Larry pointed out that a biblical mindset is built upon our understanding of what the Bible actually says. It's good to remember that it can take some work to understand Jesus' teaching. Read the following passages and write down a few truths or principles that Jesus was communicating. Keep in mind that Jesus used many different teaching techniques to get His points across.

Matthew 5:1-11

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,

[2] and he began to teach them, saying:

[3] "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[4] Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

[5] Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

[6] Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

[7] Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

[8] Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

[9] Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

[10] Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[11] "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. [NIV]

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

[22] Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

[23] "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. [24] As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. [25] Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

[26] "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' [27] The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

[28] "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

[29] "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

[30] "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

[31] When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

[32] "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. [33] Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' [34] In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

[35] "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart." [NIV]

Luke 14:25-33

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: [26] "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple. [27] And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

[28] "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? [29] For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, [30] saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' [31] "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? [32] If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. [33] In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. [NIV]

Luke 22:24-27

Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. [25] Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. [26] But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. [27] For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. [NIV]

John 15:1-17

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. [2] He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. [3] You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. [4] Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. [5] "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. [7] If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. [8] This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. [9] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. [10] If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. [11] I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. [12] My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. [14] You are my friends if you do what I command. [15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. [16] You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. [17] This is my command: Love each other. [NIV]

3. Understanding our preferred learning style can help us approach the Bible in a way that fits who we are. What type of learner are you?

How could you use your learning style to develop your biblical thinking?

Check out www.learning-styles-online.com for a free learning style inventory.

