

DOES YOUR THINKING AGREE WITH GOD'S?

Note to the speaker:

Emphasize that because of our imperfection and limitations and because of living in a world alienated from God, it is necessary for us constantly to make adjustments in our thinking to be sure that it conforms to God's thinking. Be willing to make changes personally and to allow God to mold us

WHY SHOULD WE THINK IN AGREEMENT WITH GOD? (5 min.)

All of us at times feel unsure as to best course to take

Human thinking often based on sentiment, guesswork, or limited experience (Pr 16:25)

Strain of coping with life's problems has caused increasing emotional troubles and lawlessness

We need reliable guidance from a higher source (Pr 3:5, 6)

Operation of universe, balance of life processes, design in creation, reflect God's superior wisdom and thinking (Ro 1:20)

He has observed human successes and failures throughout history

As man's Designer, he knows our needs and capacities

The Bible sets out his thinking to guide us in all aspects of life

Will we listen?

ATTITUDE TOWARD PEOPLE (14 min.)

God disapproves of thinking, speech, and practices of world of mankind alienated from him (Pr 2:11-15; *it-2* 1094)

Warns his servants not to cultivate association with such people or to imitate their way of life (Jas 4:4; 1Jo 2:15-17; *w80* 4/1 31; *w80* 6/15 5-7)

Do we agree?

Disagreement indicated by those who indulge in works of flesh, seek worldly associations, are pleasure-seeking, are materialistic (Isa 5:11, 12; Ga 5:19-21; *tp* 125-6; *su* 168)

Such a course results in frustrations

Agreement with God's thinking is demonstrated by faithfulness in seemingly little things (Lu 16:10; *w80* 6/15 9)

Are we influenced by the world in such things as dress and grooming? (*it-1* 655, 1021; *w88* 8/15 17; *w87* 9/15 14-15)

Does the world influence us in the matter of conduct between the sexes? (*yp* 181)

Does our thinking agree with God's in racial, political, social, or other matters?

In order to become one of God's people, a person must break from the world and change his thinking so that it agrees with God's (Eph 4:22-24; *w86* 7/1 20-1; *it-2* 305, 404)

We have excellent first-century examples of those who made such changes: Peter, Saul, Sergius Paulus, and others (*om* 154-5)

The truth can change people

Despite moral condition of mankind, God has made provision for salvation of ones willing to change (Joh 3:16)

Acts of kindness toward worldly people may attract them to the truth (1Pe 2:12; *yb90* 8; *w90* 5/1 31; *w85* 9/15 12)

Reflect God's thinking by showing love and mercy in everyday acts toward others (Ga 6:10)

Do we reflect his thinking, being humbly willing to share good news even with those who lead bad lives, or do we judge some to be unfit and so put forth little effort to help them? (Mt 5:44-48; Ro 5:8; *w81* 7/1 4-6; *w74* 120-5)

ATTITUDE TOWARD PARENTS (12 min.)

'I didn't ask to be born' attitude is common among worldly youths

God tells children to respect and appreciate parents, who brought them to birth and cared for them when young (Eph 6:1-3; Pr 30:11, 17; *fl* 161-8; *yp* 11-17)

Parents may still be providing for children materially and guiding them morally and emotionally

Youths, do you agree with God's thinking in this matter?

Show agreement with God by obeying parents (Pr 23:24, 25)

Even if parents are not in the truth, should respect their position in family and be obedient, provided it does not involve something displeasing to God (Col 3:20; *yp* 13-16; *g87* 7/8 19)

This applies even when child becomes adult (Pr 23:22)

Be considerate of and helpful to parents (1Ti 5:3, 4; *fl* 168-70; *w90* 3/1 20-1; *w87* 6/1 13-18)

Honoring one's parents includes lovingly caring for them in later life as need arises (*it-2* 782)

ATTITUDE TOWARD WORK (10 min.)

Many people disdain work, especially manual labor

Some refuse to work, choosing to live at the expense of the government

God is a productive worker (Ps 104:24; Joh 5:17; *w82* 8/1 12-13)

Are we in agreement with God's attitude toward work?

Must recognize its dignity; avoid laziness (Pr 18:9; 1Th 4:11)

Do not do minimum or be indifferent, but exert self and gain satisfaction from doing good and useful work (Ec 3:13, 22; *g83* 9/8 4-7; *w72* 487)

Industriousness and hard work bring benefits (*g90* 6/8 24-5; *g88* 2/8 31; *g83* 10/22 21-3; *it-2* 119)

Must keep balanced view of secular work (Ec 4:4, 6; *g93* 6/22 9-11; *w87* 10/1 6)

Hard work brings lasting satisfaction and happiness when our lives are centered on doing God's will (*w89* 7/15 4-7)

God has given his servants work to do now, preaching the good news (Mt 24:14; 28:19, 20)

Are you sharing in it wholeheartedly? (*w87* 2/1 15-20; *g83* 9/8 8-9; *w78* 6/1 27-9)

Such work brings true refreshment (*w89* 7/15 19-20)

CONTINUE TO ACT IN AGREEMENT WITH GOD'S THINKING (4 min.)

Thinking and acting in line with God's Word results in blessings

Brings us in step with way we were designed (Ge 1:26, 27)

Results in more peaceful relations with others, united families, satisfaction from work

Adjusting thinking is progressive (Ro 12:1, 2; *w90* 11/1 29-31)

Changes needed at first, but keep up effort! (Eph 4:23, 24)

God is now molding people for life in new world

Do you respond willingly and make changes when necessary?

Meetings, personal study, wholesome association, can help

Be alert constantly to indications of God's thinking, bringing your own thinking ever more in accord with it (Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)