

Thinking Like A Christian

In the book *Thinking Like A Christian* by David Noebel and Chuck Edwards the matter of christian morals and their involvement in our society come to light. The book has highlighted how to deal with my weaknesses and strengths as a christian, and provides clarity on how my values impact my life. Also, the writings enlighten us on the scarcity of people thinking like christians.

When I think about my life I focus on what I've accomplished and failed most of the time. But I find it more important to focus on what is most consistent: Your Character. When the Lord has decided to take you you will perish not with failures or successes but the sins or righteousness of how you treated yourself and others on the Earth. So what defines a man's character? All attributes of a man's character can be found in the bible like love, integrity, forgiveness, honesty, etc. That's where my journey in this workbook began. As I was reading the information and lessons were very similar to the ones that my parents taught me. I would ask myself "why does this sound so familiar"? Turns out my parents are christian and the values in this world all derive from christian based writing and text such as The Bible. When my parents made rules for me they were all rooted and based on the Ten Commandments. For instance we tend to get caught up in our "WorldView " as Schaffer would call it and not see that laws come from the bible in our society.

I listen to music, read articles, and see things that all bend my view on what's right and wrong. Instead we don't just look at the good book which is the core of what is wicked and righteous. In week one it states, " If God created the world as one reality, wouldn't it make sense to view it the way God does?" (Edwards 8). The point being it isn't up to music or the articles to tell me what is right and wrong, because God has already done that for myself. In my life reading this study has shown me that thinking like a christian isn't necessarily hard, but the challenge is being disciplined enough to stick to the course. As we know it is hard to be christ like, yet it's the only way we should be because that is the one reality.

Now shockingly growing up in a christian family I was always told about God, his son, and their works. Just out of curiosity I would wonder how do we know God is real? My christian values such as honesty with myself came into question. I was believing just to believe cause I was instructed to do so. I actually just needed some deeper explanation of God. So I would read more scripture and try to relate it to me. The more I read the more I felt the words applying to me and instructing me on what I can do better. In week 2 day 1 the workbook outlines that we ourselves are not left alone in this problema. The lord has given all people around the world no matter the circumstances ways to communicate with him. It is a matter of you actually deciding to form a bond

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with God. When forming a bond with the lord and depositing trust in him I had to take integrity in our relationship. Many times before bed I would just talk and pray for simple things like good health and good character. Many times I would speak to God about how I needed to handle my senior year and pray that the future would be smooth.

When in a tense conversation with my atheist friends my christian values have helped me explain my beliefs with more clarity. I know with some of my friends I do and they even think my beliefs are far fetched or perfidious. Claiming there is one God who created all seems insane to them. From what I've learned is when you take great integrity in your beliefs and relationship it clears the air and makes it easier. In all actuality nature professes that there is a God who created everything. On page 20 a quote from the apostle Paul states, " From the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His internal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen". So look at most cultures they all believe in one supreme being that is omniscient. Also, looking at it God communicates with all people that can read or write. He gives them signs through his eternal power. The bible and its scripture invited me just like it does with my atheist friends. It is just a matter of putting faith in God. Everyone knows of his power and glory, it is just that some don't fear it.

Also when I'm speaking to my science teacher another example I bring up is the universe. The universe on page 21 is compared to a watch with all it's internal makeup and complexities. Clergyman William Paley said, " a man chancing upon a watch in the wilderness could not conclude that the watch had simply existed... but it clearly existed for a purpose". My whole point to my teacher is that if we humans come upon the universe we should assume there is a creator that designed it's makeup. We should assume much like a watch it has purpose, and that it isn't just randomly here. These conversations are tense but my values help me explain my point of view better. All my classmates and teacher acknowledge my point is quite clever and look and say "Wow, never thought of it like that". If you make the observation about any creation it seems to make sense. What if nobody made my brain for thinking? Or what if nobody made my ears for hearing? It just doesn't add up and you can conclude that everything has a reasoning behind them and will be used for a special purpose. Furthermore, proving there has to be some grand creator of a watchmaker.

In conclusion, my christian values have impacted my life greatly. Helping me see more clearly, understand, and lead a healthy life. As a christian my understanding and paradigms were all based on my christian values. They have helped me become a role model and a leader helping others think like a christian.