

## **Thinking like a Christian (Reflection/ Essay)**

Thinking, acting, and living like a Christian is not an easy assignment. It is a task one must learn to do, and get accustomed to. Living up to God's image is not something you can achieve in one night. It is a compromise, a decision one must make every single day of your life. The book "Thinking like a Christian" written by David Noebel, certainly gives an understanding on the biblical Christian worldview, in other words, it demonstrates how humans thinking and acting in various aspects of their lives, such as theology, philosophy, biology, psychology, ethics, sociology, law, politics, economics and history, should be guided by Christianity.

Personally, I have always known that God was in everything around me, and every single situation. Nonetheless, I lacked the extent of His contribution in all the distinct aspects as it is explained in the book. I find it fascinating how a Christian should really think, since it is not something I was ever directly taught, not in the depth this book does. While reading I started questioning how I was living, if I was really living up to God's image. Nevertheless, what I thought about most throughout the text, was how few young people know God. Nowadays, Christianity, religion, has become some sort of Tabu amongst my generation. No one dares to talk about it, or to express what they believe in, or more specifically no one wants to commit to a religion. Everyone has opinions, and many people are living life as they want to live it, with their morals, their rules, with no figure to follow, no guide in their path. Which is not at all bad. Meaning we humans are given a choice, no one is obligated, we are free individuals, but the hope is that even though we are free, we will choose the path of Christianity willingly. And that is exactly what has been lost, that solely simple decision to choose God's path, His way, only a few people commit to it. I am certain we are losing our Christian young people to alien worldviews.

It should be noted, why I am specifically writing about the young population, which counts as teenagers and young adults, it is because we and they are the future of religion. If we leave it behind, our parents, grandparents, and others will grow old and would not be able to pass that information. Also, because at least where I am from, we lack programs or activities that could encourage youngsters to participate in church or the Christian life. Plus, during this whole Covid-19 situation, churches were closed and many other complications came along the way. And now that we are returning slowly back to normal life, I have seen that churches are filled with adults, no teenagers, no young adults, they are not participating, they have lost interest. Thus, there is an urge to attract this audience, to make Christianity grow, because if young people get more involved and find themselves in God, there might be a possibility of a future where the vast majority follows a Christian worldview. Nonetheless, there is not a remedy that will just simply change people's point of view and make them believe in a higher being. But there are ways, for example, before all the pandemic chaos, I used to participate in a group, which was integrated by young adults and teenagers. We used to meet once a week, and we were taught about the bible in an interactive way through experiences, which caught people's attention, then there would be music, food, and everyone had a blast. That is the kind of activity that could boost youngsters' willingness to participate more.

Nevertheless, the most important aspect is to be able to transmit, somehow, God's love to the people around us. What changes most lives is knowing we are not alone, knowing that when everyone quits on you, God will not, someone who loves us unconditionally. If people are taught His love, following his path will just come naturally. If humans could simply understand that God is above all, and that due to His work we have a

place to live, not just that but the fact that He gave up His life for us to save us from our sins. But it is as if people just decided to forget all His sacrifice, and now we are facing an increasingly dark and tasteless society. Humans have chosen to ignore God's word to love our neighbors, to love our brothers and sisters, because if we did, we would not have wars, abuses, murders, and all the many other aspects that are wrong with the world. People have modified the law to please themselves, for their own benefit, not for the ones around them, and that selfishness will just keep destroying what little planet we have left to live on. This lack of love is in every part of our day to day, in relationships, friendships, and many others. Humans tend to seek and care for their own needs only, not everyone is willing to give a hand to a one in need. Exactly that, is what evidences that we do not know God's love, because as David Noebel mentioned, we are lying if we say we love God, but hate our neighbor, because the ones around us are God's creation, and if we do not respect and love whoever is around, then we are not loving what God does, therefore we cannot genuinely love Him.

There are various conditions we must modify in ourselves and in the world, in order to have a society in which most people follow a Christian view. This modification will be challenging, but we can start with ourselves. Change starts within me and every other who wants to commit. One should start with learning how God loves me, and what it means to love Him, and only when that is understood we can proceed to help those around us to experience that love.