Thinking Like a Christian

Schaffer Scholarship Essay

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In this essay, I was tasked with summarizing the book Thinking Like a Christian. I went into this thinking I knew exactly what it meant to think like a Christian, I discovered that I had a lot to learn!

What does it mean to think like a Christian? To answer this question, I had to first define the word, Christian. "Christian- relating to or professing Christianity or its teachings", or a person who is a believer in Christianity. By this very definition, I boldly proclaimed that I am a Christian, in fact, I was certain of it.

 In My steadfastness of this declaration as I began to study further, I realize that there are many layers to Christianity, my confident assertion was due to the basic top layer of what it means to be a Christian, I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and that He died on the cross at Calvary for my sins. Therefore, by this belief, I am a Christian. However, as I studied " Think Like a Christian", I began to realize the very distinct correlation and difference in that statement "I am a Christian", and think like a Christian should think. If you asked me what it meant to think like a Christian, I would have said, do not think bad thoughts, don't say bad things about people, try to give the benefit of the doubt, feed someone that is hungry, bless those in need, and although it's a little cliche, think about situations from a perspective of, W.W.J. D., (what would Jesus do)? However, it seems that thinking like a Christian was not as cut and dry as I had ignorantly allowed myself to believe. According to the Bible, where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. Does this mean that I am free to think whatever it is I believe width no consideration for others, does this allow me to live as I please if I feel as though it is not hurting anyone else? This teaching has allowed me to take a hard look at my core values, how I treat people, how I judge them, and how I respond in difficult situations overall. This book challenges your thinking by allowing you to put yourself in scenarios where you must truly consider what is the Christian thing to do, what you feel is the Christian thing to do, and what is the Christian way of thinking to assess the situation.

Of particular interest, was the chapter on Biology. I agree with the writer that Christians are always put in a position to defend the spiritual side of their faith, especially when it comes to science, and that Christians must take substantial liberties when facing arguments of how life on earth came to be and the evolutionary theory. As Christians many of us believe that we were created from a single speck of life, whereas evolutionists believe that human life derived from theistic evolution, meaning that God used the process of evolution to create all living things including humans. although this chapter was interesting it left me feeling as though there was no clear answer, so I ask if I am confused does this mean that I do not think like a Christian?

Another scenario that challenged my thinking, as well as enlightened me, was Week 9 Day 5. "The question of obedience” I have always felt like I was an obedient child to my parents, an obedient student in school, especially and comparing myself to some of my friends and obedient to the law. However, when presented with the dilemma in this lesson, I was conflicted. Reading further and referring to the scripture allowed me to see that when we are faced with moral and ethical dilemmas, we should refer to the greatest of God's commandments. It also made me aware that Christianity, its walk, and its beliefs are indeed not cut and dry. This scenario has challenged me to take a more philosophical look at my walk as a Christian. It proposed a very insightful example of how we as Christians can sometimes blur the lines of our Christian walk. When I am trying to do something kind for someone or the right thing for someone it does not often occur to me tune consider that I may be doing something in disobedience to God I am oftentimes confronted with this moral dilemma particularly with my parents. For example, I may have friendships that my parents do not approve of or decide with parental authority that I am to refrain from their company, based on trying to protect me. However, I may feel very strongly that the friend is in need or maybe going through something in their life and they do not have the parental support, I do. There have been times that I have in essence, disobeyed what my parents have told me, to be a good friend and what I feel is a good Christian. After all, from a Christian perspective, every person has value, every person, regardless of their societal status. Having a higher consciousness of who Christ is, allows you to see the Christ in other individuals. This is further supported by the fact that God took on human form which gave human life greater significance, it adds credence to the fact that all human life is valuable, which is why God took on human form and went from creator to Redeemer.

Overall, this reading has opened my world to what it truly means to think like a Christian and allowed me to reflect on my own Christianity. It forced me to not have such a narrow point of view but to have a worldview of and to reflect on those concrete ideas I had about my faith and how I used it to judge situations, and people, it has humbled my bold profession of being a Christianity and has caused me to take a more in-depth look and a more modest approach as to whether or not my actions, words, deeds, thoughts, and words confirmed what I professed.