

## Biblical Texts on Worldview

### Total Depravity

#### **Genesis 6:5**

“The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that **every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.**

#### **Romans 1:20-21 Foolish, darkened minds/hearts**

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that **men are without excuse.** <sup>Ro 1:21</sup> For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but **their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.**

#### **Romans 1:28 Depraved mind**

“Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, **he gave them over to a depraved mind**, to do what ought not to be done.

#### **Titus 1:15 Corrupted minds**

“To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, **both their minds and consciences are corrupted.**

### Transformation by Grace

#### **Ephesians 2:1-5**

“As for you, **you were dead in your transgressions and sins,** <sup>Eph 2:2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>Eph 2:3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. <sup>Eph 2:4</sup> **But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,** <sup>Eph 2:5</sup> **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

### **Colossians 1:21-22**

“Once you were alienated from God and were **enemies in your minds** because of your evil behavior. <sup>Col 1:22</sup> **But now he has reconciled you** by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation

## **A New Way of Thinking**

### **The Command: renew your mind**

#### **Romans 12:2 the renewing of your mind**

Romans 12:1-2 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Don’t go on being “conformed” – present, passive, imperative – continue resisting being shaped by the world’s values.

Instead be being “transformed” present, passive, imperative – continue being transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Something does the transforming but we are to continue working at it.

“Christians are to adjust their way of thinking about everything in accordance with the “newness” of their life in the Spirit. This ‘re-programming’ of the mind does not take place overnight but is a lifelong process by which our way of thinking is to resemble more and more the

way God wants us to think... Paul's vision, to which he calls us, is of Christians whose minds are so thoroughly renewed that we know from within, almost instinctively, what we are to do to please God in any given situation." Moo, Romans, 756-758

"These two value systems (this world and God's will) are incompatible, even in direct collision with one another. Whether we are thinking about the purpose of life or the meaning of life, about how to measure greatness or how to respond to evil, about ambition, sex, honesty, money, community, religion or anything else, the two sets of standards diverge so completely that there is no possibility of compromise. No wonder Karl Barth called Christian ethics 'the great disturbance', so violently does it challenge, interrupt and upset the tranquil status quo." (Stott, Romans, 323)

### **Ephesians 4:17-24 "made new in the attitude of your minds"**

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>Eph 4:18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>Eph 4:19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. <sup>Eph 4:20</sup> You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. <sup>Eph 4:21</sup> Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>Eph 4:22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>Eph 4:23</sup> **to be made new in the attitude of your minds;** <sup>Eph 4:24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." (specific applications in the following verses in Ephesians 4-5)

### **The Power: Dependent on the Triune God**

#### **Romans 8:5-8 the mind set on the flesh or the Spirit**

"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have **their minds set on what the Spirit desires.** <sup>Ro 8:6</sup> The mind of sinful man

is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; <sup>Ro 8:7</sup> the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>Ro 8:8</sup> Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. <sup>Ro 8:9</sup>

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you."

This is not a warning to live in the Spirit or else. It is descriptive of the difference between what was true of you and what is now true of you.

### **Romans 8:12-13**

"Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. <sup>Ro 8:13</sup> For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if **by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body**, you will live, <sup>Ro 8:14</sup> because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

### **John 15:4**

"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."

## **The Model: Christ Jesus (his works and Word)**

### **Philippians 2:5**

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus"

### **Hebrews 13:7**

"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

### **Psalms 119:11**

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

James 1:22 doers of the word

### **2 Timothy 3:15-17**

'...You have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>2Ti 3:16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>2Ti 3:17</sup> so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

### **2 Timothy 4:2-4**

“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>2Ti 4:3</sup> For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>2Ti 4:4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

We become part of the community in which we live. Its values, patterns of communication, ideals, etc. become ours. The community’s past becomes ours; the communities ancestors become our ancestors. “These people and events become the common objects of love.... Because love is a moral orientation, what is loved collectively, whether just and righteous or idolatrous and vicious, determines how we think and act. Our own age of mass media and technology holds up the lifestyles of pop culture heroes and stock market giants as the defining” measures of being fully engaged in the culture. “We are immersed in these communities and can hardly avoid their influence – as the root of this word makes clear, they literally ‘flow’ into us, flooding our self-understanding... Our struggle is to learn how to proceed once our primary community and primary identity-conferring narrative has been shifted from the secular nation and culture to the eschatological community founded on Christ and the apostles, identifiable by the presence of the Spirit. In Philippians 3 Paul exhorted the church at Philippi to live as advance outposts and ambassadors of this eschatological kingdom to which their citizenship had already been transferred. Former allegiances and obligations had been broken. They were now to have the mind of Christ, to imitate Paul, and to keep their eyes on others who walked according to his example. Thus the persons and emblems commonly loved by this new community were to determine thoughts and actions. In this way, stories of the patriarchs, exodus and covenant, and stable, cross, and celestial city become our own. Likewise we inherit new common symbols and practices – such as baptism, Eucharist, preaching, prayer, community – as identifying communal markers and signs. These however carry with them the authority of the

Creator, not simply the commendation of a particular human collective at a given time.” Brian Williams, The Potter’s Rib, 127-128