

Outline

Un-Think Your World

We live in an ever-changing world! Don't like what you see on the societal landscape, just wait for it and it will change! Everything seems to be changing at an alarming rate of speed. Earlier this year, my friend, Shane, whom I consider one of the most intelligent cell phone technology experts in the world, sold me a phone that was way cool and helped me to be able to really work out of my phone anywhere in the world and all on this cool touch screen functioning that whisks and whizzes different screens with just a swipe of my finger. And then, just a couple of weeks ago, Shane comes in and shows me his new cool cell phone that blows mine out of the water! I got a little jealous and was going to get mad at Shane until he told me that this new phone just came out and was the new wave in cell phone technology...wait for it...wait for it...wait for it...Bam! Next week his phone will be obsolete and there will be another out that blows his out of the water.

Another change that seems to be happening is that society is constantly questioning values and morals and world-view philosophies. That has been going on all throughout history, but it seems to be moving at light speed in the 21st Century. **Everything is up for grabs and questioning.** While I believe that this is a healthy process and that all of us should question that which is held out for us to believe as truth, it can also be a quite damning process, when we choose to base our behavior and our belief system on the whim of society and the ever-changing mores of culture. **Basing our world-view and ideas of truth on society and culture is to fail to use the minds and Spirit God gave us.** For culture and society base their truths on the latest fashionable stance of what "feels good" to believe in and what "appears to be right" based on opinion polls. Now don't get me wrong. I love the culture and the society and choose to live in its midst the same as everyone else; however, as I live in it and take advantage of its ability to make life a little easier, I strive really hard to not allow it to do my thinking for me or shape my spirit in its mold of thinking and acting. To allow that to happen is a dangerous thing and has led to some of the most dangerous times in history: The Dark Ages, where society went ignorant in a barbaric rampage of pillaging, book burning, and heretic hunts; The Salem Witch Trials, where society burned without thinking, The French Revolution, where society literally lost its head, The Holocaust, where society thought it knew who was best and worst; The American Slavery Apartheid, where society enslaved the truth.

All of these changes that seemed to be forced on society without society totally wanting them caused great havoc and were allowed by people simply believing the bullies who were in power. Only when individuals within that society began to **Un-Think** what society was telling them to think did true change happen! And when individuals began to **Un-Think** what Society was telling them did positive change happen within that society. The **Un-Thinkers** of society brought about the Great Renaissance from within the Dark Ages. The **Un-Thinkers** of Society ended the insanity of the idea of Witchcraft

September 13, 2009

Hunts. The **Un-Thinkers** of Society salvaged the ideals of the French Revolution and built them into ideas for “Republics” rather than massacring oppositionists. The **Un-Thinkers** of Society were the Greatest Generation that saved the world from Nazi domination. It was the **Un-Thinkers** that changed 400 years of racism with the Great Civil Rights movements that eliminated Separate but Equal. The **Un-Thinkers** all took the standard thought of their day and began to **Un-Think** it in a way that was tough, dangerous, revolutionary, and life-changing, then they molded society into a better place to live where there was one less challenge to Non-Thinking!

God loves **Un-Thinkers**! As a matter of fact, you might say that Jesus is the model for **Un-Thinking**. He refused to accept the mold that He was expected to fit into and challenged the going thought of His day, a fact that did not go over very well and proved very hazardous to His health. By the way, **Un-Thinkers** usually find that their health is threatened when they choose to question the Non-thinking society within which they live! For good examples look at the lives of Jesus, Paul of the New Testament, Joan of Arc, Julius Caesar, Martin Luther King – a very hazardous profession – Un Thinking.

Un-Thinking actually does not come naturally to humans. We are a Non-Thinking “follow the crowd” sort. We love to wear something that is ugly simply because someone “Cool” told us it was cool to wear (think scruffy beards, no bathing and “earthy” tones in the ‘70’s, parachute pants and skinny ties in the ‘80’s, Crocs in the New Millennium. We love bubblegum pop music that says nothing because the music industry tells us that it is good. What does *Boom Boom Pow* actually say? We go pro-life or pro-choice just because someone we like tells us to think that way. Just this week mobs supported or protested President Obama’s speech, not because of research and thinking, but because of “focus groups” that told us what side we should be on in this “Non-issue.” We really like to be told what to think rather than doing the hard work of understanding and limiting ourselves to the boundaries of Truth. God is constantly pushing us to do our homework. He desires that we ask the tough questions and **Un-Think** society’s thought rather than live the cushy existence of Non-Thinking and go with the flow. **God desires that we live by truth rather than by feelings**; that we live by eternal and universal boundaries and standards rather than by rubbery, ever-changing opinion polls and social shifts. God has even given us a guideline for this Un-Thinking found in Romans chapter 12 right in the middle of the New Testament - time-tested truths that are broad truths so as to apply to all situations, no matter the society, the date, or the fashion. In this series, I ask you to embark on a challenge to **Un-Think your World!**

[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. Romans 12:1 NIV](#)

Here is the challenge. God is asking us to take our world and how we view it and trust Him to know how it is lived best and leads to a fulfilled life. He asks us to pause and

September 13, 2009

offer that life to Him and live how He guides us to live it, for He knows best. I like how another translation of the Bible puts it, for it helps me see the practical request of God:

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. **Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.** Romans 12:1 TM

God wants us to begin to operate in every area of our life with His principles and according to what He shows us to be success and right rather than allowing others to think for us and define success and rightness for us. And notice the result when we do that! Worship! We all think it is worship when we sing a song or two on Sunday morning here. Worship is simply arranging my life to look like, sound like, be like my idol. I am engaged in a little informal fun worship today - it is probably not worth it, but I am dressed like the football team I love – the Denver Broncos. Others of us try to dress like or wear our hair like the Hollywood icons we enjoy. Still others buy the stocks that Warren Buffett buys because of respect for him. That is a form of worship. Worship is respect shown for the one I love by emulating their behavior in my own life. In other words, just exactly like Romans 12:1, I rearrange my life and my thinking to model that of the one I respect. That is worship. I choose to live my life in accordance to what I value, respect. What do you worship? Have you thought about that or are you simply worshipping by chance?

It is here that we have to be careful, for so many of us are modeling our thinking and world views after people, institutions, thought, lifestyles that are simply wrong thinking and affect our lives negatively. Our sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking around life is not God-motivated. It is society-motivated. Oh, we have our God-time that we give to Him and it is usually on a Sunday from 10:00 to 11:30 and we look God-like, act God-like, and do God-like things like sing or listen to God songs, nod at a God talk, and give God a tip in the offering depending on the quality of the God-service that day. And we think that we are worshipping God, for we have done the God-thing on Sunday. But the rest of the time is Our-Time, and God needs to stay in his God-Box on Sunday between 10:00 and 11:30. During that time we don't sound very God-like, we operate on a different set of principles that aren't like the God we hear about on Sunday, and engage in a whole slew of activities that God has no business interfering with in our lives. And we think we know why we are this way. We live by Society's mantra, "If I am Happy, that is all that counts." And the best way to be happy is to just simply slide along with the way the rest of the lemmings are sliding and ask no questions: Live and let live and don't make waves – and especially don't think about how you live and whether it is hurting others or will have long-term consequences. God is best kept in the God-Box and brought out on Sundays during God-Time – and doesn't it feel good to give him some time out of the box and listen to a nice God-song once in a while.

September 13, 2009

The next verse cautions us about our thinking or our habit of NON-Thinking that leads to destructive lifestyles. Romans cautions: Un-Think Your World!

[Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.](#) Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. Romans 12:2 TM

What is God's goal for you? Happiness? I don't think so. This Un-Thinker's Mission Statement in Romans says that God desires your maturity. And yet, much of history is replete with Humanity's mistakes of striving for happiness. I have mentioned several already this morning. Much of the respected world thought slavery led to happiness, but it was evil. Other people in the world thought that getting rid of the people that thought different from them would make the world a happier place, but it was evil. In the 1930 and '40s a guy thought it would be an easier world if the Jews were exterminated. And many people who had not thought through their Thinking and View of the World just slid right along with that idea.

You know, I think that we possess the same potential for evil. As a matter of fact, I would be willing to say that all of us have a little bit of good in us and a little bit of evil. We have the potential in our lives to do a lot of good. We also have the potential to do a lot of evil. Which we choose will depend on whether or not we are willing to Un-Think the thinking around us using a standard for goodness that has for its basis only the good of others. We must be careful not to conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the consistent "renewing of our minds." That is what Romans 12:2 is cautioning us to do in our lives. Take those everyday walking around lives and don't allow them to get caught in the sea of lifestyle and media and thinking of society, but constantly be self-examining and test it against the Word of God in the Bible and in our fleeting thoughts.

It is not good enough that you make decisions that make you feel good. Many in history have made decisions that felt good but were evil. Daggone straight having a slave do my every bidding might make me feel good, but it is evil. And we are all capable of evil. We all make evil decisions when we have as our goal our happiness. We don't even let babies get away with that kind of thinking. Why does a baby scream and cry? Because the baby thinks it knows what is best for itself. It wants to sleep when it wants, eat when and what it wants, play with what it wants, and get whatever it wants. But we don't let it do we? Why? Because we in our infinite knowledge know that its happiness is not necessarily what is good for the Baby. We desire its maturity.

September 13, 2009

God's goal for our thinking and living is consistent maturity. So I urge you to do something for the next month. Take my **Un-Thinker's Challenge**. Apply Romans 12:1,2 to your World. For the next month until Sunday, October 4, live by the principles of Romans 12.

Un-Thinker's September Challenge.

1. Daily Ask God to speak to you from Romans 12.
2. Read some or all of Romans 12 daily until October 4.
3. Temporarily Pause any thinking or lifestyle unsupported by Romans 12.
4. Temporarily Adopt any thinking or lifestyle supported by Romans 12.

Un-Think your Life Philosophy in light of what God reveals to you.

September 13, 2009