

Outline

The Un-thinkers Honor Code

We are right in the middle of a challenge that I threw out last week. I call it The Un-Thinker's Challenge and for the next month, I have challenged all of us to Un-Think our world. Here it is, and I have some cards with the challenge written out on them that will be on the Welcome Table should you like to enter into this challenge as well for the rest of the month.

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.

Now don't get Un-Thinking confused with Non-Thinking, which is what I believe we are so tempted to do. Non-Thinking happens when we allow culture and society to do our thinking for us and we accept the thoughts, beliefs, and lifestyles of society as right without thinking about them. Our tutors? The Media, Education, Religion, Government, and Family. None of these are negative; however, we engage in Non-Thinking when we simply accept as truth that which these influencers pound into our heads. Don't get me wrong, I believe it is good to allow others to influence our lives. I am thankful for those who have influenced me to be the man I am today from my parents to my college professors to many of you. The media has even been used to cause me to think in new ways. However, Non-Thinking in my life happens when I fail to analyze and question those sources and simply accept their beliefs and lifestyles as truth and live my life according to them. I believe we should constantly be Un-Thinking our World as we are challenged to do in what I call the Bible's Un-Thinker's Mission Statement:

Un-Thinker's Mission Statement

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

How well-adjusted are you to your culture? Do you simply live your life and accept its influence without questioning its validity or Standard of Truth? Society's standard is often "Live and let live," or "Do whatever makes you happy!" Now while those look good on paper, the living out of those mantras have led to some very evil outcomes as I pointed out last week – things like slavery and The Holocaust. Notice in the mission statement that God makes no mention of "happiness" or "tolerance." God says His goal for you and for me is **maturity**. And for maturity to occur, I (1) must choose to fix my attention on God, (2) recognize the truth of His Word (both in the Bible and in His Voice in my Fleeting Thoughts –conscience), and (3) Quickly Respond to

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it – Obey it. The pursuit of any other endeavor will only lead to evil, discord, and unhappiness. God's well-formed maturity will always, always, always lead to joy, peace, and love – GUARANTEED!

The rest of Romans 12 is spent tangibly illustrating the Universal Truths of God, providing the Standard by which we should Un-Think society's influence in our life. And it begins with a bit of an Un-Thinker's Honor Code:

Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Romans 12:3 NLT

In order to Un-Think our World, we have to be able to Un-Think our opinions of ourselves. You know, we tend to be quite enamored with ourselves. I don't know about you but I am my most popular thought subject. I think of myself a lot! I am constantly thinking of me. Am I depressed? Am I happy? Do people like me? Are my needs being met? Am I a failure? Do I look fat in these jeans (Naw, I never think that one...). Then there are the dark thoughts of myself that I have, when I try to compare myself to others. Surely I am not as bad as him. I am a better person than her. Sheesh, I am glad I don't sin the way they do. I certainly am a better Christian than they are. That is how society, and often Christianity, begs us to look at things. Society is constantly evaluating my value to it or whether or not my profitability statement will benefit it. Then I am hired or looked over or given the B+ or the F. My value is constantly being evaluated with that of others. Simon Cowells exist all around my world just ready to judge if I am the next American Idol in whatever I am doing or if I am an American bust. But the sad thing is – I engage in that same comparison and either judge myself superior to others or as a failure to others, both thoughts having equally destructive results.

As our Un-Thinker's guide points out, God wants us to Un-Think that kind of logic. He wants me to be honest in my evaluation of myself. Not thinking too highly of myself, but not thinking too lowly of myself – really not thinking of myself that much at all. He wants me to leave the outcome of my life up to Him and His judgment and use the faith He has put in my heart to trust His leadership of my heart. He wants me to listen to the positive thoughts He puts into my head and my Fleeting Thoughts.

What does Un-Thinking my view of myself and others look like? **I stop thinking that I know what is in the hearts of other people.** So often, we think we know what the evil is in another's heart and what their motivations are and we sit around and judge them as good or ill. However, the fact is, we have no idea what motivates another person. We see them act in a way that seems negative and we naturally assume the worst about them. God would not have us do that. He wants us to Un-Think that thought of judgment. He wants us to have the grace to believe what they say about themselves. When I begin to think I know what is in another person's heart, I begin to get self-righteous and think I am better than them – and that has led me to some very dark activities in my life. Un-Think your thoughts of comparison to others. Neither think that you are better than them nor lower than them. Simply realize that God has shown grace to you and them and that God is the ultimate judge of our hearts!

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Another way to Un-Think our world is to realize that God has created us to need each other in true community. You see, there is a Non-Thinkers Code and it works like this: all must conform to whatever the Non-Thinker establishes as “The Way.” The Non-Thinker does not allow for thinking outside the boundaries of his/her thought and will persecute, prosecute, and punish all who think adversely. However, God desires that we develop a Spirit of **Un-Thinking through the Value of Others in our lives**. Instead of self-centeredness, He calls for me to value the Body as a whole.

In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of His body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't. Romans 12:4,5
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You want to see what this looks like in God's natural world? He has even built this Body concept into the Animal Kingdom. And the same consequence happens if ignored there. [Insert March of the Penguins video.](#)

We must Un-Think the thought that we have all we need to mature and succeed in this world all by ourselves. God built us to need the strengths and perspectives of others in our lives. **He built weakness and strength into Humanity.** Non-Thinkers fight against the diversity of humanity and seek to keep humanity under control by forcing thought and eliminating questions and “free-thinking.” God on the other hand values the fact that He created uniqueness into all of us where we are really good at thinking one way, but stink just a little bit at thinking from a different perspective. Therefore, in order for humanity to function as a well-built body, all of humanity must value the diversity of gifts. **Un-Thinkers** must constantly be self-evaluating their own thought in light of the strong thinking of other **Un-Thinkers** and making self-adjustments, which lead to greater maturity and greater overall “Core Body Strength.” You must **Un-Think** the idea that you know it all or that you are the wisest person you know. The Un-Thinker will seek out those who have different gifts that match his weaknesses and appreciate them as assistants in the human machine and expanders of the Un-Thinker's own mode of thought. The **Un-Thinker** will also allow his/her own strength and mode of thought to be known and to influence the thought of others with no strings attached to the thought or the gift! An **Un-Thinker** values the ultimate **Thinker**, God Himself, as the only one who has all the answers and the One in control of the course of humanity and history. We must **Un-Think** our impulse to rely solely on our wisdom and wait on God to work in our lives and our thinking, not valuing ourselves too highly and believing ourselves to be too important in the whole process. The best thing an Un-Thinker can do when thinking through a thought – **Wait** on God to make things happen. It is not my job to change your heart or your thinking, but to wait and allow Him to work the situation however He wants to work it – and I have found, at just the right moment, He will make it obvious when He wants me to jump in and take a role in His work. But I need not to react the moment a thought enters my brain or I end up yelling out stupidly in the middle of a President's talk or grabbing the microphone from a singer and saying something I regret. Think right now how your choosing to act on a thought ahead of God's leading has hurt you and oth-

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ers. Got it in your mind? Good! Give it to Him to forgive, then go make it right after the service today and commit to Un-Thinking your next reactive thought and wait on God's wisdom and Him to act.

Too many times we use our Thinking to destroy. I think we would all do well to let more corrective thoughts about others slide than to act on them. Why has God created this thing called the Church – so we can jump on each others' faults and sins – not so much. We need to Un-Think our religion. God has called us to unify as a Body so that we can use the Gifts He has put in our Spirit to become a Community that Ministers to the Community – I like to call that Communistry! And God means for everyone who is a part of God's Body, of which Christ is the Head, to build a positive interdependent, interactive community. Take a look at our Un-Thinker's Guide and Think about what you are bringing to the Community!

Since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't. If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face. Romans 12:5-8 NLT

How does this apply to Ni River? I think Ni River needs to do some Un-Thinking right now. Many of us are concerning ourselves with the political nature of being a religious institution. We are succumbing to the thinking within our hearts that things are not what we think they should be or that leadership is not leading how we think they should lead. I have heard all kinds of opinions how this church could be run differently. And guess what? I think you are all right. There are a million ways of running a church and there are tons of opportunities to get it right and wrong. What I do know is that the leadership and the people of this church are good with the potential to succeed and err at every opportunity. However, that is not the problem.

The problem is that Ni River is in a time of Transition and Transition is always tough because there is so much change and so much unknown. That is why it is called a Transition. So what should we do in a Time of Transition? Our tendency is to worry, panic, fret – all good options if you desire failure. I challenge you to take our Un-Thinker's guide here and follow it to the max! What should we all do? We should all look inside ourselves and realize we are an individual part of a great big Body, of which Christ calls Himself the Head and do what He designed each part to do to the fullest extent and to the best of our ability. I'm not saying this – He is!

Un-Think your reactionary and judgmental thoughts of others – Those are not motivated by God in your Fleeting Thoughts. I think they might be motivated by another spirit who can suggest negative outcomes into your spirit and desires your and your church's utter destruction. Now is the time to Un-Think your desire to React and choose to become Proactive by using the gifts that God has given you and make this Body the healthy body God wants it to be! Quit sitting there in your God-seat during your God-Time on Sunday trying to look God-like! Be the

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church. Contribute to building up and the healthy functioning of the Community of Ni River so that this church can contribute to the uplifting and supporting and loving of the greater Community of Fredericksburg – Communistry, Baby!

Who is with me? Who will commit to Un-Thinking their thoughts of what the church is supposed to be and what their role in the church is? Let's all lead in the church, but only in the area where God has called us to lead and only with the gifts that God has given us to serve effectively! Un-Think the church – It is not a political religious institution. It is a living, breathing mass of Penguins, gathering together to support one another to move toward new birth, rebirth and communal support.

Let's pray!

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