

Outline

Un-Thinkers' Universal Truths (Part A)

I thought I was being original when I came up with the title of this series that we are in right now – **Un-Think**. Then the other day I was watching TV and this commercial came on (**Insert KFC UnThink Commercial** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpqTqtDT6t8>). Truly as King Solomon, the author of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament, said, “there is nothing new under the sun.” But it is really cool that there seems to be a movement across the world right now to Un-Think the way we are living our lives. If the 80's and 90's were the era of political correctness, it seems that the New Millennium has thrust upon us the idea of Un-Thinking our standard modes of thought and lifestyles. I mean think about it: KFC wants us to Un-Think our thoughts of health. Their ad encourages us to think of them in the new light that they think of themselves – as a healthy dining option. This has come as America has found itself in an obesity crisis. Whereas once we were encouraged to “Super-size” everything, we now are beginning to Un-Think our views of healthy eating. Not only that but the beauty of the recession is that it has caused all of us to Un-Think our spending habits. I saw a report last week that said the recession may be coming to an end, but that our economy woes are enduring because Americans are choosing to save rather than spend. It sounded like the report was saying that was a bad thing, but I am trying to see the downside to all of us choosing to live within our means. When we Un-Think our 1990 and early 2000 habits of living well outside our means, I believe the economy will self-correct itself. I mean, even look at the prices of things from houses to cars to KFC's chicken prices. They have all fallen a bit back to realistic levels. This is a good thing. We are even all becoming good stewards of our environment as we Un-Think the ways that we are living in this world. We have been challenged to Un-Think our waste in the world and hardly a person I know is unfazed by this. We see recycle bins at the park. We see gas guzzling “clunkers” being traded in for hybrid cars or smaller, more fuel-efficient cars. Every cup of coffee you drink has a label on the cup that says it was mostly created from trash. And we love it! We are becoming masters at turning trash into value all because we have been forced into Un-Thinking our habits.

We live in a world of Un-Thinking and it is making us a better world. We are beginning to think through the way we live our lives and how it affects all who surround us. I love it! Well, as I said, I thought my idea for this series was creative and original, but as you see by the examples I have given you from KFC who also had the slogan to our environmental and economic habits, I am a little late to the game. However, as they say (and I love to live my life by whatever “They” say), “better late than never.” Except for bills, and taxes and death and a lot of other distasteful things – better never than late for them, but I digress. This is our series – Un-Think Your World. And I have given us a bit of an Un-Thinker's Challenge for this month that this series exists – Here it is:

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/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.

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The Un-Thinker's Mission Statement

In view of God's mercy, offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 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.

Romans 12:1,2 NIV

So this month I have challenged us to live according to Romans 12 – be living sacrifices. That word “sacrifice” is a tough word for us to understand in our modern context. It is an Old Testament word, where God required the giving up of a prime possession to Him as a “death substitute” for the sin that caused separation from Him. So in the Old Testament, the people would once a year offer up a perfect specimen of livestock for the leader of their community to sacrifice as the death payment for their sin. It had to be repeated every year, because the people repeatedly sinned and the sin needed to be continually paid for. The people that the writer of Romans was writing to would have understood this. However, things changed with the coming of God in human form called Jesus. He ended up giving His life as the ultimate perfect sacrifice to pay for the sins of all who believed in Him. He was the payment that satisfied all debts, for He represented all humanity as He was part of creating all humanity. Jesus talks about the sacrifice He was going to make in trying to explain it to a guy seeking the truth needed to believe in Him in John 3:

This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. **Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted**; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

John 3:16-18 TM

So the matter of killing animals as a substitute for our sin is a done matter. You might say, God went Green a long time ago. He paid the ultimate price for our sin of rejecting Him and all we have to do to benefit from that is not kill a sheep, but Believe by Faith that He has forgiven us. We do not try to do real good for a real long time in hopes that we might make it to Heaven. Sheesh! If that is the case I'm screwed and so are you. I know a bunch of you and you struggle to make it an hour without blowing it in some way – me too! No. God had it in His plan all along to let us see how futile it was for us to be able to live “Good” on our own or to try and keep the 10 Commandments on our own. We're just stubborn learners so He had to let us try. Then He, in His perfect timing, settled the deal once in a while in a “if it's gonna' be done right, you have to do it yourself” kinda' attitude. And frankly, I for one am glad that my joy and peace and eternal life do not depend on me, for I know I would figure out a way to earn myself right on out of the deal. But how about you? You're still trying to achieve goodness on your own aren't you? You're still hoping your good outweighs your bad when it is all said and done, aren't you? And as far as I can see a lot of you are doing a pretty good job. You look pretty good. You sound pretty good. You act pretty good. You got me fooled pretty good. But God is the one who knows everything. He sees the inside of your spirit, the true you! He sees when you sneak a

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lustful look and have a lustful thought. He knows that hatred that you have toward that person that you mask so well. He is very aware of your materialistic and envious spirit. You see, it's not the blatant, very outward sins that will do us in. We're pretty good at feeling bad for our immorality, murder, theft, and the outward sins that look so obvious. We confess those and make those things right. It's the ones that most people can't see us commit: gossip, hateful feelings toward another, jealousy, lust, greed, pride. Those do us in almost hourly. Those are the ones that add up in the negative column that others are not so aware of and we conveniently overlook because we don't have to blatantly confess them and make them right. Those are the ones that will damn us to Hell if we are relying on our control of them and being our own rep before God in justifying them. Those are the ones that I am relying on Jesus Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection to acquit me in God's White Throne Court in Judgment Day. You see, we have to Un-Think what we consider Good and Evil. And that is what the Un-Thinker's chapter of the Bible challenges us to Un-Think. Jesus made the Ultimate sacrifice for my sin and I just need to accept that and move on. I don't have to kill innocent animals to sacrifice for my sin, because God, through His Son, Jesus made the Ultimate Sacrifice to pay for my sins once and for all forever. I hope you will consider accepting His sacrifice for your sins today. If not, as Jeff Probst on Survivor says to the losing teams all the time, "I got nothin' for ya'."

So back to our Un-Thinker's Mission Statement: [In view of God's mercy, offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.](#)

If Christ paid the price as the Ultimate Sacrifice, and we don't have to sacrifice anymore, why does the Un-Thinker's Mission Statement ask us to be Living sacrifices? I thought that sacrifice stuff was done and we can just go live however we want. He paid the price! It's all in the motivation, baby! Look where the sacrifice comes in the verse: it is after the fact that we are forgiven, not before to earn it! In light of our love for the fact that He has done so much for us and because we are so blessed by His mercy in saving us from sin and ourselves, that is why we should seek to live a life of sacrificing what society offers as a "me first" solution to living life. Because He loves me so much, I seek to live in harmony and relationship with Him. That is unconditional love on both parts. If the sacrifice came before the gift, then it would not be love; it would be work. Because God loved me so much and sacrificed Himself to pay the price for my mistakes and disloyalty to Him, I then have my motivation to seek His wisdom for living my life rather than trusting the wisdom of other flawed individuals and a flawed culture! Cool huh. My seeking God's will for my life is not motivated by fear, but love. In a culture that never gives a free ride but all must be earned and credit given for hard work, that is pretty refreshing. So what is the requirement? In light of God's love I choose to sacrifice society's work/reward theory with God's Universal Truths. And the rest of Romans 12 outlines those for us and it will require us to Un-Think our lifestyles and our thinking.

Un-Thinker's Universal Truth #1 – Live a Life of Genuine Unconditional Love

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:9-13 NIV

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My life must be lived from the center of who God created me to be. I must seek to live a life of sincerity, honesty – true to who God is and who He made me to be! How do I do that? It is easy. I gotta' run from the Hate and hold on for dear life to the Good in life! How do I know what is the Hate and what is the Good? Look at the next line – God thought you might ask! The good is anything, any thought, any activity that puts others first in brotherly love. Any activity that would be opposite from God's model of love and self-sacrifice that I shared with you earlier from John 3 is what I have to run from. How do I know what is hate – well it is usually linked with putting thinking of myself first before everyone else. You know, when I get to thinking about myself and wanting my needs and desires met first, I always end up making some very selfish, and others-damning decisions in life. I have yet to screw my life up when I have chosen to Honor others above myself. I like how another version of the Bible puts it –“Practice playing second fiddle.” That is the one instrument nobody wants to play. We like First Violin!

What does second fiddle look and sound like? Serving others, joy, patience, and praying. When I choose to live my life with an others first mentality, I serve them before I treat myself. What if we did that at home? A revolution of love might break out and instead of fighting for the remote, we might just fight over who gets to serve the other and make a lot more love and lot less war. What if you did that at work? You might be the one everyone wants to work with or the resident pastor that everyone trusts with their life challenges or the one that God promotes because of your faithfulness in the small tasks. What if we did that at church? There would be no gaps in ministry or lack of spiritual fervor from people filling holes outside of their spiritual gifts.

Un-Think the Love, Baby! Love is not me feeling all warm and gushy inside because you have met my every whim and need and made me feel all tingly. That gets old for the person who has to always meet your needs and desires. Love is joyful in hope, cheerfully expectant that the tough times that come in every life will not last, but if we endure and stay committed, God will bless and maturity will bring the good times. Love is patient in affliction, knowing that with conflict comes greater maturity. Love is knowing that God is there even though I can't see Him and that He is faithful to always reward those who Earnestly Seek Him! Love prays knowing that God knows what is best for me and that I really don't! What is prayer? It is simply telling God what is up and listening for His interpretation and His solutions in my Fleeting Thoughts all day long and every day of my life. God is talking to you every day. Are you listening for His voice in the thoughts that pop in the back of your mind through your day? Are you obeying Him? Trust Him. He knows better how to live your life than you do. I mean, have you done such a good job on your own to this point?

Un-Think the love. Don't hoard it. Give it away. Give it to someone who needs it today. Love is the only emotion that is felt more keenly as you give it rather than receive it. Practice, Practice, Practice. It is the only way you will get really good at living Unconditional love throughout your life! Un-Think what it is to Love Unconditionally!

Go Immediately to Black and then Immediately insert [Jaeson Ma “Love” video](#) from [Tangle.com](#).

http://www.tangle.com/view_video?viewkey=5920dadd9b8e4674f8fb

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