

Think This Again

I. Introduction:

A. Those of us in Christ have a renewed thinking (**Colossians 3:10**).

1. The word translated renewed in **Colossians 3:10** [ἀνακαινώω] is defined as: “to renovate: — renew. To cause to grow up, new, to make new; new strength and vigour is given to one; to be changed into a new kind of life as opposed to the former corrupt state” (Strong’s # 341).

2. That renewed way of thinking takes us from conforming to the world, or to our way, to conforming to the will of God (**Romans 12:1-3**).

B. Think about growing. Doesn’t growing in Christ also mean that our thinking will continue to develop gradually (**Ephesians 4:13-15**)?

1. There is a clear distinction in the thinking of a babe from that of a mature saint (**Hebrews 5:13-14**).

2. This NEVER justifies someone sinning, overlooking sin, doing something in sinful ignorance, etc. (**Romans 14:23**, **I Corinthians 15:34**, **James 2:10-12**, and **I John 3:1-10**).

II. Body: Step Back, Take a Second Look (**II Corinthians 10:1-18**).

A. Dealing first with this context... Had they stepped back and taken a second look at Paul, they could have considered his fruit (**Matthew 7:15-20**).

1. Paul’s fruit showed he didn’t walk after the flesh (**I Corinthians 7:7; 7:32-33**, **II Corinthians 11:7-9**, and **Philippians 3:4-11**).

2. Paul wasn’t just bold in writing (**Acts 17:1-6** and **Acts 19:8**).

3. Paul wasn’t out to be a public orator (**I Corinthians 2:1-16**).

4. Paul wasn’t a boaster, didn’t seek man’s approval, and he certainly was not out for himself (**I Corinthians 4:1-21**).

5. The Corinthians should have been able to examine things more maturely, but they failed. Would they take a second look and start with looking at themselves first (**II Corinthians 13:1-10**)? If they did, they would find the conclusions they made about Paul were VERY wrong. What else should that tell them?

B. As we grow (**II Peter 3:18**), we ought to examine ourselves (**Galatians 6:4**).

1. If we find our thinking is not right on something, we have to get to the heart of that incorrect thinking and consider what other areas may be affected thereby (ex. **I Corinthians 3:1-3**; cf. **James 3:16**).

2. At the same time, wrong thinking on something(s) doesn’t mean you’re wrong on everything. Corinth had a lot of problems because of their carnal thinking; but they weren’t wrong on all things (**II Corinthians 7:7-11** and **II Corinthians 9:1-2**).

3. I say that because, we don’t want to become such as whom take so many second looks that we become double minded (**James 1:8**) and of a doubtful mind (**Luke 12:29**). We can be sure of things (**I John 5:13; 5:20**).

C. Some applicable thoughts...

1. The ability to grow, pace, cap, etc.; is not the same for all of us (**Matthew 25:14-30** and **Luke 12:48**).
2. Growth in knowledge, understanding, etc. doesn't mean you were sinning before (**I Corinthians 13:8-13**).
3. As you experience things, the information you have learned will come to life in different ways, though the truth remains unchanged. Even the most knowledgeable gain understanding through experience (**Hebrews 4:14-5:9**). *Elders have to be married, fathers, bring up faithful children, etc. (**I Timothy 3:1-7** and **Titus 1:5-9**); because those experiences make them more capable of proper shepherding.
4. We should be humble enough to know that we can keep learning endlessly in this life (**Proverbs 1:5** and **I Thessalonians 4:1-2**).
5. Being willing to think again must be balanced. You cannot embrace new conclusions on things settled in the Scriptures (**Proverbs 23:23**, **Colossians 1:23**, and **I John 2:24**), but must be willing to be better at doing the right things the best way (**Philippians 1:9-10**).
6. If any or all of us were to err, we'd need to be able to rethink things to bring about the process of repentance (**Psalms 119:59-60** and **Ezekiel 18:27-28**).

III. Conclusion: Work on knowing better tomorrow than you do today (**Proverbs 9:9**).