

Renewing our Minds - Part Three (A Six Part Series)

Why is it Important to Renew our Minds?

Review - Parts One and Two:

Reason One - So we can think the way God thinks

Reason Two - So that we can relate to one another as Christians

Reason Three - It is important to renew our minds so that we can be an example of Christ to everyone who comes in contact with us.

(Matthew 5:13-16 NLT) "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it useful again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. {14} You are the light of the world--like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. {15} Don't hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all. {16} In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

What are some specific ways in which we can be salt and light?

*(1 Timothy 4:12-16 NIV) "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but **set an example** for the believers in **speech**, in **life**, in **love**, in **faith** and in **purity**. {13} Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. {14} Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. {15} Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, **so that everyone may see your progress**. {16} Watch your life and doctrine closely. **Persevere in them**, because if you do, **you will save both yourself and your hearers**."*

1. We are to be "an example" (a model, a pattern, a sampler)

Paul says to his followers: *(1 Corinthians 4:16 NLT) "So I ask you to follow my example and do as I do."*

2. Our progress is to be evident to all. Are you advancing in your walk with Christ?

In the New Open Bible (Thomas Nelson Publishers, Page 1466), there is a comment that says, “A genuine faith will produce real changes in a person’s conduct and character, and the absence of change is a symptom of a dead faith.”

3. We are to persevere as our love, knowledge and understanding continue to grow. Our walk is to be cumulative. Building on what we have learned and how we have changed. Take it up a notch.

(Matthew 5:21-48 NKJV) “You have heard...but I say”

(Philippians 1:9-10 NLT) “I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in your knowledge and understanding. {10} For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until Christ returns.”

The Greek word used in Philippians 1:9-10 for “pure” is, “eilikrines.” Its meaning is best understood to be the idea of being “judged by sunlight, tested as genuine, pure” or “sincere.” In these same Scriptures, the Greek word for “blameless” is, “aproskopos.” It means to be “inoffensive, not leading (or led) into sin,” and “faultless.”

4. We are to be an example to believers, but we are also on display to unbelievers.

*(John 17:21 NKJV) “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, **that the world may believe that You sent Me.**”*

*(Romans 8:29 NKJV) “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”*

*(Galatians 2:20 NKJV) “I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...**”*

Questions to consider

1. What is the quality of your daily life?
2. Does it set a standard for the world to see?
3. When people look at you how much of Jesus do they see?