

# FOR GOD'S SAKE GROW UP

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## CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- What is one funny thing you believed about the world as a child?
- What is one thing about which you are passionate?
- Who is a figure in your life whose thoughts and feelings are particularly important to you?

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## TRUTH UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING

Each and every person has thoughts and emotions. In many ways, these thoughts and emotions form the core of who we are. However, very often, as a result of the brokenness in our experiences, relationships, or circumstances, our thoughts and emotions are also the first parts of us to lead us away from God. Paul gives us a few considerations about how we ought to think and feel in our passages below.

### WE NEED TO THINK WHAT GOD THINKS

**READ:** 2 Corinthians 10:1-6

**DISCUSS:** How does Paul say that we should fight ungodly thoughts?

Paul is employing some strong language to help his readers understand the stakes of wrong thinking concerning God. He uses images of warfare and weaponry to instill the nature of how difficult it is to come up against such thinking—not only in others, but in ourselves as well. We must exert ourselves to take every one of our thoughts captive in order to obey Christ as our Lord and King. If we think what God thinks, we will better be able to live lives of obedience.

### WE NEED TO FEEL WHAT GOD FEELS

**READ:** 2 Timothy 4:1-5

**DISCUSS:** In verses three and four, how does Paul describe what happens when one's feelings are out of line with God's own?

Paul discusses a time to come when people's feelings about what God has taught or commanded will lead them away from God, and into lies. These lies will be appealing, specifically because they will be fashioned after their passions. In addition to taking our thoughts captive, Paul calls us to be sober-minded about our passions and emotions, and not to be ruled by them, in order that all our lives might preach of God's truth.

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## GRACE

SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS

Most people are relatively convinced that our thoughts and our emotions are outside our control, but Paul seems to speak directly against that notion. However, he also makes it clear that we cannot control our thoughts or emotions in our own strength—that is in the flesh or by the weapons of the world. Christ himself stands as the living embodiment of God’s truth, and it is by his grace alone that our thinking and feeling can change. The only person who never needed to repent of ungodly thoughts or emotions has died for the ungodly—all of us— in order that we might be saved also from our own hearts and minds. Further, by the power of the Holy Spirit given through Jesus, we can also endure in his grace to live radically different lives from the inside out.

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## CHANGE

APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS

- What wrong thoughts or feelings have confronted you as you have examined Paul’s thoughts? How has reading God’s Word through perhaps Paul given you a new perspective on your thoughts and emotions?
- After confronting what is ungodly within us, our next step is repentance. What does it look like for you to repent of your ungodly thoughts and emotions?
- What does it look like for others to help you or hold you accountable as you seek God’s grace and strength to change?

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## PRAYER

RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

- Pray for God’s truth and wisdom to rule in our minds and hearts.
- Pray for God’s grace to heal our ungodly thoughts and feelings.