

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 10:3-6**.
For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, **4** for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. **5** *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, **6** and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.
- B. This is the fourth in a series on being a servant.
- C. There is a difference between being a servant and being a slave. There are people who will take advantage of servants and turn them into slaves.

I. SERVING IS NOT MIND-CONTROLLED SLAVERY.

- A. The ace trump of cultic leaders is the very fact that they can take servants and turn them into slaves. Their secret of success is mind control. They want your mind, and they're not satisfied until they have absolute control over it.
- B. It's called BRAINWASHING. It is the, ultimate, behavior modification. My personal opinion is that some discipleship movements are using slavery and mind-control under the guise of servanthood.
- C. But remember, blind loyalty is not servanthood.
- D. We need to watch out for the highly gifted, capable, winsome, and popular superstars who focus attention on themselves or their organization.
- E. The TRUE LEADER must consciously turn people's devotion and worship to the Head of the body-- JC. He is the only Savior and Lord.

II. SERVANTS MUST HAVE A RENEWED MIND.

- A. To perform as a servant, one must allow THEIR minds to operate on a different plane than those around them. It is possible, and more importantly it is ESSENTIAL (Rom. 12:1-2).
I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- B. Living differently begins with thinking differently. A life that is characterized by serving others begins in a mind that is convinced of such a life.
- C. You must convince yourself you would rather have a towel than a throne! (Phil. 2:5).
Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

III. FOUR MENTAL BARRIERS.

- A. Thinking right always precedes acting right!
- B. The balance of the lesson tonight deals with four mental barriers to our being able to transform our thinking into the mindset of a servant.
- C. Think of an old castle, built long ago. There were several things done to keep the enemy out. There were the walls, the moats, the guard towers, and the defense strategies. We do the same things in our mind when confronted with the Spirit's message.
 1. **The wall...** a mental fortress (2Cor. 10:4).
for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
This is our overall mental attitude, our natural mind-set. For some it's **prejudice**, or **pessimism**, or **legalism**. It's a huge mental barrier that resists divine input like a massive wall resists enemy troops. It's comfortable, but is it right?
But A SERVANT DOESN'T THINK THAT WAY.

2. **The moat...** a mental speculation (2Cor. 10:5).
We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,
 We have human reasoning that gives our walls added strength. They are **defense mechanisms**, **rationalizations**, and **thinking patterns** that are habits to us. There is a real war going on in our minds between Biblical truth and years of secular thinking. More than likely you find yourself resisting and defending; the old ways want nothing to do with change.
 But A SERVANT DOESN'T THINK THAT WAY.
3. **The guard tower...** the mental lofty things (2Cor. 10:5).
We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,
 This is a reinforcement of the first two. What comes to mind? How about **pride**, **stubbornness**, and **arrogance**. We have an un-teachable spirit that likes to argue and refuses to change. The natural, secular, un-renewed mind rejects truth.
 But A SERVANT DOESN'T THINK THAT WAY.
4. **The defense plan...** the mental thoughts (2Cor. 10:5).
We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,
 Even with all the above there are **techniques** and **devices**, and certain promptings that we use to push away God's word. When all else fails we come up with one, big, beautiful EXCUSE. Our inner reaction to truth is "No way!" We have a "Murphy's Law" mentality ready to spring into action.
 But A SERVANT DOESN'T THINK THAT WAY.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. It all begins in the mind. Thinking right always precedes acting right. Teach your heart correctly from the renewed mind: otherwise, it will love the wrong things.
- B. Servanthood begins in the mind. The prayer is not that God change others, but "Lord, change me."
- C. Renewal in all things is found in X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.