

"I used to be a  
Bible teacher."

## TC's Thoughts for Discussion

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Tears flow fancifully down the faces of many followers of Christ as they sing the lyrics, "To be like Jesus...To be like Jesus...That's all I want...To be like Him." What most fail to recognize, though, is that Jesus never even once permitted his "feelings" to interfere with his critical "thinking" or his actions. Want to be like Jesus? That's how.

No scripture compels believers to take on Christ's "heart" but we're commanded multiple times to take on His MIND. Yes, Jesus was known for his compassion —always characterized by DOING what needed to be done. Here are a few reminders of the importance and the wisdom of that Godly mindset:

- > "The HEART [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it?" —Jeremiah 17:9
- > "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your MIND..." —Paul, at Romans 12:2
- Lest you miss Paul's truly critical point, here, it is this: "Change the way you think!" That's a far, far cry from praying, "Oh, God, please realign my thinking to be Christ-like." (See Hosea 4:6, below.)
- > "Let this MIND be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." —Paul, at Philippians 2:5
- > "...not a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound MIND..." —Paul, at 2 Timothy 1:7
- > "...Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same MIND..." — 1 Peter 4:1
- > "MY PEOPLE ARE DESTROYED FOR LACK OF [righteousnes?] [sincerity?] [worship?] [prayer?] [hyperspirituality?] [holiness?] [regular church attendance?] [believing "what 'we' believe"?) [faith?] [getting "truly 'saved'"?] KNOWLEDGE." —Hosea 4:6
- > "God's gift of a sound MIND is a terrible thing to waste."

For Christian believers and every other human being, "Doing What Comes Naturally" comes all too naturally. Because Human Nature is the Sin Nature, Christians are instructed to crucify it. What comes naturally for us is unfortunately reinforced by two dangerously misguided religiously-correct clichés: "Follow your heart" and "Let your conscience be your guide." There is no scriptural support for either of them. (Take that to the bank.)


The Old Testament is clearly a record of God's effort to teach the Hebrews why and how To THINK rationally—to follow their MINDS, instead of their HEARTS: In a nutshell, God's entire Old Testament message is justly characterized like this:

- > "O.K. guys, these are the boundaries for your behavior. Stay within these boundaries to enjoy my blessings and my protection from your enemies. Step one foot outside these boundaries and you're on your own. Step back inside with plans to stay and you can, again, enjoy my blessings and my protection."

'Tis blasphemy to "spiritualize" such a practical concept.

An uncommonly insightful friend of one of my **Link1**<sup>(TM)</sup> Bible Research Team colleagues wrote this a few days ago:

- > "When I look back over my life, though I can recall my emotions at different times, the overriding question that comes to mind is the one I am persuaded that God will put to me on that day. It is not, when one thing or another occurred, 'How did you FEEL?' but rather, 'What did you DO?' My Lord, help me not to let my deceitful heart decide my actions, that my answer to You, when You call upon me, is as clear as the mind you gave me, and not muddled by the ramblings of a wandering heart." —Stanley Levy, Torrance, CA

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Post a comment or question or just read what others are saying: [www.DYPK.org/apps/blog](http://www.DYPK.org/apps/blog).

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.

I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.

Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches. "In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Mark Twain

