

## **Think Good Thoughts**

We have all been trained to worship false images. This was my conclusion after reading “*Your Looks: What the Voices Say and the Images Portray*” in The Journal of Biblical Counseling, Volume 15, Number 2, Winter 1997 by David Powlison. This article depicted the deception and obsession in our culture with physical beauty.

It explained how we are plagued with audio and visual messages that attempt to convince us as to “what we should look like”. He writes how we have been given false definitions of good and evil.

Notice also the way that false voices and images always define—misdefine—good and evil, success and failure, value and stigma. Whether you are dealing with “peer pressure,” with “media influences,” or with (to put it more technically) “processes of enculturation and socialization”, the key to understanding to drag the lie into the open. Enculturating lies usurp the functions of God’s truth. They promise blessing and warn of curses. They define “good” (in this case as cranial hair). They define “evil” (as a bald pate). If only you can attain the good, then you will obtain the blessing. Bald-headed “sinners” have only themselves to blame for their misery. The lie creates a false vision of life and death, meaning and futility, happiness and unhappiness. To help people correct their distorted vision, show them how they have been molded by their context of persuasive images and voices.

These messages are imposed on us through television, magazines, and movies. However, they are widely accepted because of our deceitful hearts. Many people are deceived because of the willful lust of their eyes, lust of their flesh, and their

selfish pride. Hence, Satan is able to tempt many of them into worshipping false gods—pleasing themselves. Christians must help Christians see this manipulation.

According to Scripture, those whose thoughts are oriented toward earth instead of heaven worship themselves. By doing so, they become Christ's enemies. They are those who think only about earthly things and walk as enemies of the cross. Frequently these people suffer with thought problems such as self-pity, resentment, worry, or lust. We must learn to focus our thoughts on things that are true, serious, just, pure, lovely, good, morally excellent, and praiseworthy. (Philippians 3:18-21; 4:8).

Christians must put off worldly thinking and put on heavenly thought. Christians must endeavor to make one another aware of how we have been deceived into habitually thinking of ourselves, our problems, and responding in an unbiblical manner. Christians must then, by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, learn how to view life from God's perspective and begin to practice those principles revealed in the Word. God is really reality.

In closing, I submit that "right focus, right thinking, right attitude, and right subjects" results in right living. Christians must do as the apostle Paul admonished and "take every thought captive and bring it into obedience to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5b). The veil must be removed.