

# Critical Thinking

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Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

- I. One of the things I hear from and see other Christians talking about these days is about teaching their children to be “critical thinkers.”
  - A. Most people are much too quick to latch on to these little word traps of the world that lead to ungodliness, without trying the spirits to see if they be of God.
    1. Here is another one, just for an extra thing to think about: “virtue signaling.”
  - B. Last week we talked about discerning between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error – which is much more than just discerning between truth and error itself.
  - C. It does not require much more than a casual consideration of this matter of being a “critical thinker” to realize there are some big spiritual problems with this concept.
  - D. I also have watched some of these “critical thinkers” who claim to be Christians and I have seen what they turn into.
    1. They reject and rebel against all lawful authority, especially concerning the order of the church.
    2. They think they know more and are more wise and discerning than any elder, or preacher, or even any other Christian.
    3. They are always contrary and contradicting and objecting to anything put forth that they do not like.
    4. They are proud and haughty and separate themselves from the local church and the fellowship of the saints.

Jude 19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

- E. Here is the definition of “critical thinking”:

Critical thinking is the analysis of facts to form a judgment. [1] The subject is complex, and several different definitions exist, which generally include the rational, skeptical, unbiased analysis, or evaluation of factual evidence. Critical thinking is self-directed, self-disciplined, self-monitored, and self-corrective thinking.

CRITICAL means Inclined to find fault, or to judge with severity.

SCEP'TIC, n. 1. One who doubts the truth and reality of any principle or system of principles or doctrines. In philosophy, a Pyrrhonist or follower of Pyrrho, the founder of a sect of sceptical philosophers, who maintained that no certain inferences can be drawn from the reports of the senses, and who therefore doubted of every thing.

2. In theology, a person who doubts the existence and perfections of God, or the truth of revelation; one who disbelieves the divine original of the Christian religion.

Luke 12:22-29 And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye

better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, **neither be ye of doubtful mind.**

- F. So simply by reading the definition we can see that it is contrary to the Word of God and the Spirit of God, and contradicts the identifying mark of Christian character, which is charity.
- G. We can see that self is made the finally authority in what is true and what is false, which is to make oneself a god.
- H. In order to do this there must be a spirit of rebellion against all authority and established truth.

#### Rebellion - Open resistance to lawful authority.

- I. When a human being takes it upon himself to question everything and make up his own mind about everything he is in rebellion against God.
- J. We have an eternal Book that is God's revealed truth and with the help of the Spirit of God, through faith in God, we can know and be assured of all matters in this world and the world to come.
- K. The mind is the battleground where spiritual warfare takes place, and when we yield our mind to operate after the manner of the ungodly and unbelieving of this world you can be sure that the devil and all spirits under his dominion will invade your mind and set up a stronghold with this ungodly concept.
- L. I found, with just a quick look at the list of spirits mentioned in the Bible, these different spirits that would definitely be involved with "critical thinking."

Spirit of error – 1 John 4:6  
Spirit of the world - 1Co 2:12  
Lying spirit - 1Ki 22:22-23; 2Ch 18:21-22  
Seducing spirit - 1Ti 4:1  
Haughty spirit - Pr 16:18  
Proud in spirit - Ec 7:8

Acts 20:18-19 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, **Serving the Lord with all humility of mind,** and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

Romans 8:5-7 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For **to be carnally minded is death;** but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Romans 12:16 **Be of the same mind one toward another.** Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; **but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**

Ephesians 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

M. The world's critical thinking produces this kind of insanity:

Critical race theory (CRT), intellectual movement and loosely organized framework of legal analysis based on the premise that race is not a natural, biologically grounded feature of physically distinct subgroups of human beings but a socially constructed (culturally invented) category that is used to oppress and exploit people of colour. Critical race theorists hold that the law and legal institutions in the United States are inherently racist insofar as they function to create and maintain social, economic, and political inequalities between whites and nonwhites, especially African Americans.

1. Critical thinking is supposed to be based upon facts, but this is obviously not.
2. I read an article today about an artist that sold an "invisible" sculpture to a brilliant critical thinker for \$18,000. (show article)
3. Critical thinking then, is simply the devil flattering a gullible soul by making him believe that he can be a god himself and he then makes a fool of himself, and destroys himself, just like he did with Eve in the garden.

N. Critical thinkers reason with vain imaginations and not with facts.

1. It is exactly what is behind all the insanity of gender identity, homosexuality, climate change, aliens from outer space, open borders, covid, masks, and so much more.

O. Critical thinkers of the world are people who have abandoned God and so they are in darkness and blind to any kind of spiritual matters.

II. We should be sound in our reasoning and our mind should work in the realm of truth.

- A. There is such a thing as thinking, and thinking right, but when we use this term that the world has coined there are too many who are easily swallowed up in the deceit of it.
- B. To think and reason properly we must use only facts – not vain imaginations.
- C. God made us with an imagination, but it is meant to be used for problem solving and creativity – not for make-believe fantasies.
- D. We should teach our children to think right, but not to be "critical thinkers" after the manner of this world.
  1. They will be critical enough without our instruction.
  2. They will be tempted to rebel against authority enough without our encouragement.
  3. They will question truth and morals and law enough without our showing them how to do it.
- E. We should teach our children charity instead of "critical thinking."

1 Corinthians 13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

1. Part of love is trust and confidence – critical thinking voids all that and makes it impossible to trust or believe anyone or anything – that is the very premise of it.
- F. Believing in God is what we call "faith" which is another casualty of "critical thinking," whose very definition means to doubt and question everything.
- G. "Critical thinkers" will be confused and very lost people because they are without faith, charity, and hope.
- H. Teaching our children to be critical thinkers will be teaching them not to believe what they must believe to avoid perishing forever with the ungodly.
- I. And that is obviously the work of the devil.