

Perspective: Thinking
2 Timothy 2:14-26

Are evangelicals generally considered to be good thinkers? Do you consider evangelicals to be good thinkers?

Have you known some Christians who seemed to be good thinkers? Have you known some Christians who seemed to be opposed to thinking?

What are the characteristics of a uniquely Christian mind?

What are some indications in the Bible and in 2 Timothy 2:14-26 that we should value right thinking?

How would you explain to someone that Christian faith doesn't require a leap of faith that leaves our minds behind? Why is this the way a lot of people (including Christians) talk about faith?

What are some of the consequences of bad thinking that Paul mentions in vv.14-18?

One consequence of bad thinking is that it leads to ungodliness (v.16). What is the relationship between wrong thinking and wrong living? What is an example of how wrong thinking can lead to wrong living?

Another reason we should avoid wrong thinking is that it will destroy the faith of some (v.18). Have you ever known of someone who had their faith destroyed because of bad teaching?

What do you think are some of the most common examples of wrong thinking in our day (inside the church) that can lead to death?

It was suggested that many kids walk away from the faith of their parents because their parents' faith has very little substance. Have you seen this? Do you think this is a problem? If so, what are the solutions?

One key for right thinking is to continually return to the gospel and keep it central (vv.8 &14). What is the gospel, and why would returning to the gospel help us avoid wrong thinking?

We often think of the gospel merely as the ticket that gets us to better and deeper things. Why is this wrong and what are the effects of this mentality?

Another key for right thinking is to handle the Bible correctly (v.15). What are some of the ways we can make sure we are handling the Bible correctly?

A third key for right thinking is to avoid pointless arguments (vv.14 & 23). Have you ever gotten into or experienced a pointless argument? What are some of the causes and effects of pointless arguments?

The last key for right thinking is to speak the truth in love. According to vv.24-25, how is Timothy supposed to respond to the wrong thinkers?

Has anyone ever spoken the truth in love to you? Have you ever spoken the truth in love to someone else?