

FORWARD TO FREEDOM SPIRITUAL WARFARE

TAK^{en}_{ing} CAPTIVE

Colossians 2:8-10 & II Corinthians 10:3-5

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Romans 12:2)

TAKEN CAPTIVE (Colossians 2:8-10)

*"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ."
Colossians 2:8*

We can be taken captive by:

Human tradition

Culture's lies:

1. It's all relative.

2. I deserve to be happy.

3. I am what I achieve.

4. I can be anything I want to be.

Spiritual forces

The battle is won or lost in your mind.

TAKING CAPTIVE (II Corinthians 10:3-5)

*"...we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."
II Corinthians 10:5*

Our primary weapon: God's Word

A new filter: 3(D) every thought!

Discover: Think about what you're seeing or hearing.

Filter it all through questions like these:

- ✓ What is the main topic, theme, or mood?
- ✓ How does it suggest that you should think, talk, or act?
- ✓ How are people portrayed positively or negatively?
- ✓ Where is happiness or satisfaction found?
- ✓ How would you feel if your spouse, parents, or Jesus were sitting right next to you?

Discern: Look more closely at what you've discovered.

- ✓ How does this line up with who God is and what his scriptures reveal about the world we live in?
- ✓ Does this help grow you into the person you want to be someday?
- ✓ How does it line up with the filter of Philippians 4:8?

Decide: Will you let this thought shape you?

- ✓ Should you entertain this thought?
- ✓ How will this thought shape your beliefs, actions, life?

As we "take captive every thought" we reject the lies we've believed and replace them with God's truth.

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Sermons can be viewed online at creeksideeg.com/sermon
Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

PRAYER

Begin your time together by thanking God for our minds and their incredible ability to think, to make decisions, and to control our bodies. Ask God to help us use our minds to honor Him in the spiritual realm by taking every thought captive in obedience to Christ.

MY STORY

1. Do you remember a time when you entertained thoughts that you now understand were not from God? What influence did those thoughts have over you and how did that influence change once you gave your life to Christ and began feeding your mind with the Word of God?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. What point from Sunday's message gave you new insight into the battle for the mind?
3. How do the following statements relate to you and your involvement in the spiritual battle? Explain your answers. "You are the sum total of your thoughts." "There is no neutral ground for thoughts." "The spiritual battle is won or lost in our minds."
4. **Read Romans 12:2.** How is the mind involved in our transformation process? What is the difference between being conformed to the world and being transformed by God's Word?

5. **Read Colossians 2:8-10.** What warning does Paul give? What are some examples of "hollow and deceptive" ideas that we need to guard against?
6. **Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.** How does Paul describe the spiritual battle we're fighting? How do we fight differently than the world around us? What are some of the weapons for tearing down strongholds?

DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

7. What do the following verses teach regarding how we are to care for our minds?
 - **Colossians 3:2**
 - **Philippians 4:8**
 - **1 Peter 1:13**
 - **Psalms 26:2**
8. Look back at the 3(D) filter (Discover-Discern-Decide) that Pastor Phil gave you. Practice that filter now with a piece of media that is popular with your group or with a commonly held belief in our culture today.

TAKING IT HOME

9. What thought or idea do you need to take captive this week? What truth will you replace it with?

PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group, and ask God to help you take every thought captive in obedience to Christ and to be disciplined to renew your mind daily with God's Word.