

No. 53 Does Your Thinking Agree With God's?

PLEASE NOTE: Explain why Jehovah's thinking is superior and beneficial. Encourage all to analyze their thinking and make adjustments where needed. If you wish, you may use the artwork provided to illustrate points where indicated

WHY SHOULD OUR THINKING AGREE WITH GOD'S? (4 min.)

Jehovah God's thinking is far superior to human thinking [Read Isaiah 55:8, 9] [Image 1]

Human thinking may be based on sentiment, guesswork, or limited experience

Humans are imperfect, so their thinking has led to many problems

We benefit when we harmonize our thinking with that of Jehovah God (Ps 119:98-100)

Doing so does not cause us to lose our individuality (w18.11 19-20 ¶5-8)

HOW CAN WE ADJUST OUR THINKING TO AGREE WITH GOD'S? (4 min.)

We learn God's thoughts by reading his Word, the Bible (2Ti 3:16, 17)

Read with the goal of understanding God's thinking and adopting it [Read Psalm 119:97, 104]

Ask yourself: 'What does this tell me about Jehovah's qualities, his personality, and his likes and dislikes? Why does Jehovah think as he does?'

Ask God for his holy spirit, which can help you to understand and apply what you learn (Jas 1:5)

Let us consider three areas in which we should evaluate whether our thoughts agree with God's thoughts

GOD'S THOUGHTS ABOUT PEOPLE (7 min.)

Jehovah is impartial; people from "every nation" are acceptable to him (Ac 10:34, 35) [Image 2]

We reflect God's thinking by rooting out of our heart any prejudice toward those who are different from us

We eagerly share Kingdom good news with "all sorts of people" (1Ti 2:3, 4)

Jehovah is kind and generous, even to unappreciative ones (Mt 5:45)

We reflect God's thinking by being kind to others even if they are unkind to us (Mt 5:44)

Doing so promotes peace and may draw them to Jehovah

Although Jehovah cares about all people, he chooses as friends those who love him (Ps 25:14)

We reflect God's thinking by choosing our close associates carefully (Ps 119:63)

Doing so helps us to avoid being influenced by harmful human thinking (w18.11 21-22 ¶15-18)

GOD'S THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FAMILY (6 min.)

Jehovah is the Originator of the family; he intended it to be a loving arrangement (Eph 3:14, 15)

Family members reflect God's thinking by showing love and honor to one another [Read Ephesians 5:33-6:1]

Husbands and wives should treat each other with kindness and respect (g16.6 9)

Doing so strengthens the marriage so that it can withstand trials

Children show love to their parents by obeying them (Pr 1:8; w13 5/15 21 ¶9; 22 ¶14)

Thus children gain Jehovah's blessing on their future (Eph 6:2, 3)

GOD'S THOUGHTS ABOUT WORK (6 min.)

Jehovah is a productive worker, and he finds satisfaction in his work (Ps 104:24, 31; w05 6/15 5 ¶2-4)

We reflect God's thinking by cultivating a positive attitude toward work (Ec 2:24)

We should strive to be diligent, punctual, and productive (Pr 13:4)

Doing so brings self-respect and satisfaction (Lvs 202-204 ¶10-12)

We reflect God's thinking by cultivating contentment instead of striving for wealth (1Ti 6:8-10)

The Bible encourages us to set aside time for worship and rest (Ec 4:6; Php 1:10)

Doing so helps us to have a balanced life and a good relationship with God

CONTINUE TO MAKE GOD'S THOUGHTS YOUR OWN (3 min.)

Adjusting your thinking to agree with God's thinking is an ongoing process (Eph 4:23, 24)

Keep making God's thoughts your own by studying the Bible and attending Christian meetings

As you experience the good results of adopting God's thinking, you will strengthen your determination to imitate him (Eph 5:1)

Your efforts will bring you success and great happiness

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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