

Picture This

Part Four - Images

The human imagination can be a blessing or a curse.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...

Psalm 2:1

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

Genesis 8:21

And the LORD was pleased with the aroma of the sacrifice and said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of the human race, even though everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil from childhood. I will never again destroy all living things."

Yielding our imaginations to God is part of the sanctification process.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

James 1:21

So get rid of all uncleanness and the rampant outgrowth of wickedness, and in a humble (gentle, modest) spirit receive and welcome the Word which implanted and rooted [in your hearts] contains the power to save your souls.

John 17:17

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

Unyielded imaginations lead us away from God.

Isaiah 65:2

All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations...

Romans 1:21

Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like (vain in their imaginations KJV). As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

How to Deal with Vain Imaginations

2 Corinthians 10:4

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ...

1. Make the knowledge of God the plumb line for your thoughts.

2. Take a wrecking ball approach to any mental structure that defies God's will.

Acts 17:29

So if we are God's children, we shouldn't think that the divine being is like an image made from gold, silver, or stone, an image that is the product of human imagination and skill.

3. Be disciplined in your thought life.

Proverbs 25:28

A man without self-control is like a city without walls.

God tells us what to picture. We can use our imaginations in a positive way.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.

Unyielded imagination leads to pride.

Romans 12:3

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.