

DISCIPLINE FOR GODLINESS

DISCIPLINE OF MIND-SOUL

The complex capacity of the human brain is the subject of ever-widening scientific wonder. Its twelve to fourteen billion cells are only a shadow of its complexity, for each cell sends out thousands of connecting tendrils so that a single cell may be connected with 10,000 neighboring cells, each of which is constantly exchanging data impulses. These twelve to fourteen billion brain cells times 10,000 connectors make the human mind an unparalleled computer. The mind's activity has been compared to 1,000 switchboards, each big enough to serve New York City, all running at full speed as they receive and send questions and orders. Put another way, there is more electronic equivalent in one human brain than in all the radio and television stations of the entire world put together!

The human brain does not miss a thing. It is capable of giving and receiving the subtlest input — from imagining a universe in which time bends, to creating the polyphonic texture of a Bach fugue, or transmitting and receiving a message from God Himself — feats no computer will ever accomplish.

The dizzying potential of the human mind reaches its apex in the possibility of possessing the mind of Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit — a possibility affirmed by Paul when he said, “**But we have the mind of Christ**” — **a mind which is constantly renewed** (cf. [1 Corinthians 2:16](#) and [Romans 12:2](#)). No computer will ever be able to think God's thoughts, nor will any device ever be able to know the heart of God or do His works. But the mystery which resides between our ears has this capacity. Indeed, it was created for this — to have the mind of Christ.

This cosmic potential of the believer's mind introduces the great scandal of today's Church: *Christians without Christian minds*, Christians who do not think Christianly — a tragic fact which is far more true of professing Christian men than women, as we shall see.

Some prophetic voices have been sounding the alarm for some time now, like that of former **United Nations Secretary General Charles Malik**, who told the distinguished audience at the dedication of the **Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College**: “*Believe me, my friends, the mind today is in profound trouble, perhaps more than ever before. How to order the mind on sound Christian principles, at the heart of where it is formed and informed, is one of the ... greatest themes that can be considered.*”

Bible Study: Discipline for Godliness

Discipleship Series:

Pastor Eddie Idefonso

Harry Blamires, in his much discussed *The Christian Mind*, has said that while Christians may worship and pray as Christians, they **do not think** as Christians: “[T]he Christian mind has succumbed to the secular drift with a degree of weakness and nervelessness unmatched in Christian history.” Elsewhere he sees our generation as suffering from religious anorexia (*anorexia religiosa*), a loss of appetite for growth in Christ.

The bottom line is: this grievous scandal comes from a declining willingness to properly program the amazing instruments God has given us. Christians leave their twelve billion cells unguarded and unthinking — and undisciplined.

When we turn to God’s Word, we are aware that the Biblical writers understood the problem in a less technical, though more personally beneficial, way. **“Above all else, guard your heart,”** says Proverbs, **“for it is the wellspring of life”** ([Proverbs 4:23](#)). **“For as he thinks within himself, so he is”** ([Proverbs 23:7](#), NASB). The Scriptures tell us rightly that input determines output — that our programming determines production.