

**SERIES: The Mind of Christ  
Minimizing the Negatives  
Philippians 4:8**

**Big Idea – God wants me to think on His truths, not the lies of the Evil one.**

John 8:42-45 Jesus told them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me.

43 Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me!

44 For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

45 So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe me!

Our challenge is to think right in a negative world. The major reason the world is so negative is because Satan is for the time being, the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who is now working in the children of disobedience.

1 John 5:19 “...the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.”

We daily receive news that is not uplifting. We all know people who can hardly wait for the future so they can look back with regrets.

Recent survey by R.H. Brieskin Assoc., 12% of the people who were asked to state the best thing that had happened to them in the past five years, answered, “Nothing!” These sad people see only bad options in every situation. Negative thinking and living does many detrimental things to our life. Notice these with me:

**Why does the Evil one, the enemy want me to think on negatives?**

Because my thinking controls my actions. If I think wrong, I will act wrong.

“What people say with their mouths comes from the way they think; these are the things that make people unclean.

19 Out of the mind come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual sins, stealing, lying, and speaking evil of others.” Matthew 15:18-19

**Notice the power of negative thinking:**

1. Negative thinking creates confusion
2. Negative talking is contagious. 12 spies in Numbers 13 & 14

3. Negative thinking blows everything out of proportion. Always assumes the worst.
4. Negative thinking limits God and our potential. (Psalm 78)
5. Negative thinking keeps us from enjoying life. (Psalm 73:2 – 13)

These are the folks who say, “Any time things appear to be getting better you have overlooked something.”

6. Negative thinking hinders others from making a positive response.

The greatest danger of a negative lifestyle-it tends to control those you influence and love the most.

### **Paul recognized the power of a positive thought life**

“Brothers and sisters, think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4:8, 9

### **Good positive news – Satan is a defeated foe.**

Hebrews 2:14 Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.

Romans 8:2 “...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. “