



## TIC Connect Group Discussion Guide

1-6 September 2019 | Philippians 4:8

**The Message.** Grow in godly thinking in Jesus Christ.

**Context.** “In Philippians 4:8, Paul reaches the climax of his appeal. ‘Finally, brethren...’ he writes—directing this to all the believers in Philippi, and to every believer in every place. What follows is not merely for some Christians. This is not reserved only for those whose conscience is unusually sensitive or those who are naturally emotional. Instead, this is addressed to all Christians, all who are born into God’s family. None of us are above this and no one is excluded from this.” (Lawson).

### Observation & Meaning

1. What does to “think about” (ESV) or “dwell on” (NASB) these things mean?
2. Is truth (what is true) relative or absolute? Why?
3. “‘Honorable’ (*semnos*) means that which is noble, dignified, lofty, elevated, venerable, august” (Lawson). Considering today’s culture is continuously more and more casual, what does it mean to think about what is honorable?
4. What is “just” (ESV) or “right” (NASB) in light of God’s holiness?
5. Read Ephesians 5:3-5. What does it mean to think about “whatever is pure”?
6. How is the way Christians think of what is “lovely” different from the world?
7. What is “commendable,” “excellent,” and “worthy of praise” in the eyes of God?
8. Read Romans 12:1. How does our mind fit into our experience of God and our ability to live a life worthy of the gospel? (Cru).
9. How is Paul’s command different from the positive thinking teaching that is popular in the world now? *See Insight.*

### Application

10. ECF. Proverbs 4:23 says, “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.” What is the heart issue behind “dwelling on” ungodly thinking?



11. Christ-Centeredness. Philippians 4:7 says, “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” How does being in Christ Jesus enable us to develop godly thinking?
12. What should we do to proactively pursue godly thinking? (Lawson).

### **Insight**

Positive Thinking. “Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993) popularized what came to be known as positive thinking. He took existing ideas from Christian Science and other inspirations, gave them a biblical veneer, integrated them with psychology, and packaged them for the masses, spreading his message through *The Power of Positive Thinking* ... His foremost contribution to the world was this notion that thoughts are causative, that our thoughts can change our lives, our health, our destiny. Readers were thrilled with this notion that if they believed it, they could have it, or be it, or do it. Peale believed we live in a world that is mental more than physical and this allows our thoughts to be determinative. If this is the case, all that stands between us and our desires is properly controlling our thoughts.” (Challies).

### **Resources**

- Cole, Steven J. “Lesson 25: The Christian’s Thought Life (Philippians 4:8).” Bible.org. [bible.org/seriespage/lesson-25-christian-s-thought-life-philippians-48](http://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-25-christian-s-thought-life-philippians-48) (accessed on Sep 4, 2019).
- Guzik, David. *Philippians*. Enduring Word Commentary. Enduring Word Media, 2012.
- Lawson, Steven. *Philippians For You: Shine with joy as you live by faith* (God's Word For You Book 18). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.
- “Philippians 4:2-9.” Cru. <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/bible-studies/philippians-life-worthy-of-gospel/7.html> (accessed on Aug 28, 2019).
- “The False Teachers: Norman Vincent Peale” Challies. [www.challies.com/articles/the-false-teachers-norman-vincent-peale/](http://www.challies.com/articles/the-false-teachers-norman-vincent-peale/) (accessed on Sep 4, 2019).