

Your mind matters.

“According to the Bible, developing a Christian mind is part of the very essence of discipleship unto the Lord Jesus...Emotional self-indulgence and irrationalities have always been the enemies of the gospel, and the apostles warned their followers against them.” – J. P. Moreland, *Love Your God With All Your Mind*¹

Mark 12:28-34

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”³² And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him.”³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Q: What is the mind?

A: the faculty of thinking, comprehending, and reasoning, *understanding, intelligence, mind*.²

Q: How does atheism fare in explaining the mind?

A: In his book, *Scaling the Secular City*, J. P. Moreland gives five factors needed for rational thought that naturalism cannot account for:

(1) Minds must have intentionality capable of having thoughts about and directed towards things in the world.

(2) The reasons, propositions, thoughts, laws of logic, and truth must exist and be accessible to people’s minds and thought processes.

(3) One must be able to “see” how logical arguments are cogent—this means recognizing the flow and cogency of the argument, not just being physically caused to believe something.

(4) An enduring self is required to follow an argument over an extended period of time, seeing the argument flow from beginning to end.

(5) Some type of agent causation (that is irreconcilable with physical determinism) is needed for personal reflection and a rational evaluation of arguments. Naturalism cannot account for these five factors.³

Q: What is the natural state of the human mind?

A: Hostile to God: Colossians 1:21 *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds.*

Q: How do I love God with my mind?

A: The right posture: Teachability (Humility). Proverbs 1:7-8 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
⁸ *Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,*

A: We think God's thoughts.

- 1) Your purpose and direction in life: Make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20)
- 2) Your profession: Your mission field to make disciples.
- 3) Your time, talent, and treasure: Leverage it towards your purpose.
- 4) Your sex life: Abstinence outside of heterosexual, monogamous marriage. Within natural marriage...have fun.
- 5) Your view of yourself: Made in the image of God.
- 6) Your view of others: Made in the image of God.

Practical benefits of teachability (humility)

- People will like you.

“I commonly observe that almost all men, whether good or bad, do loathe the proud, and love the humble.” – Richard Baxter⁴

- You'll grow exponentially in wisdom and likely progress farther faster.
- You'll be an excellent team member, or likely retain excellent team members.

Application: Pathways to learn and love God with your mind

- Regular Bible learning with your family and church family.
- Daily Bible intake: SOAP: Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer.
- Grace Track: <https://gogracefellowship.org/gracetrackonline>

¹ J. P. Moreland, *Love Your God With All Your Mind: The Role of Reason in the Life of the Soul*, ed. Dallas Willard (Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1997), 43, 85.

² William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 234.

³ J. P. Moreland, *Scaling the Secular City: A Defense of Christianity* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1997), 92-96.

⁴ Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor* (Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2001), 146.