

Reckless Thinking

- Scriptures:**
- Psalms 36:3-4 (NLT)** Everything they say is crooked and deceitful. They refuse to act wisely or do what is good..[4] They lie awake at night, hatching sinful plots. Their course of action is never good.. They make no attempt to turn from evil.
- Proverbs 4:14-17 (NLT)** Do not do as the wicked do or follow the path of evildoers. [15] Avoid their haunts. Turn away and go somewhere else, [16] for evil people cannot sleep until they have done their evil deed for the day. They cannot rest unless they have caused someone to stumble. [17] They eat wickedness and drink violence!
- Proverbs 10:4-5 (NLT)** Lazy people are soon poor; hard workers get rich. [5] A wise youth works hard all summer; a youth who sleeps away the hour of opportunity brings shame.
- Proverbs 14:4 (NLT)** An empty stable stays clean, but no income comes from an empty stable.
- Proverbs 29:20 (NLT)** There is more hope for a fool than for someone who speaks without thinking.
- Genesis 29:1-18** Tells of Potiphar's wife and how she tries to seduce Joseph. She was a Reckless Thinker - she had no sense of obligation to Potiphar.

Definition:

- Lack of interest in responsible performance
- Responsible living "is" unexciting and unsatisfying
- No sense of obligation
- Will respond only if an immediate payoff is seen

Thinking and acting patterns that defeat responsible initiatives:

- a. Relying on others - because if Reckless Thinker won't do it someone else will
- b. Lack of learning - the more the Reckless Thinker knows, the more the Reckless Thinker is accountable for
- c. Perfectionism - if the Reckless Thinker can't do it perfectly, then it won't get done at all
- d. Demands guarantees - without guarantees, the Reckless Thinker will not do it
- e. Fear of put-down - if the Reckless Thinker has a chance to fail, then won't do it
- f. Associates with other irresponsible people - they can then become excuses
- g. Lack of responsible self-interest - doesn't take care of oneself

Characteristics of a Reckless Thinker (If you can say "Yes" to one of these, you have some degree of Reckless Thinking:

1. Fiercely independent, resists needing others
2. Whenever you get free time, you fill it with work instead of enjoying yourself
3. Very high standards of your own work - and you arbitrarily impose them on others
4. Always in a hurry and impatient with others
5. Bad habit of putting off good times and relaxation until later
6. Always have to have an outcome that justifies time investment

7. Competes constantly, with a vicious streak
8. Difficult to be empathetic because you want to solve the problem
9. Don't handle failures well, and they have a disproportionate impact on self-esteem
10. Gravitates towards workaholics and then competes against them
11. Always desires to be in control, and when threatened will become angry
12. Overextends self financially, emotionally, and physically because bigger is better

Bitterness

The thinking goes, "I'll obligate others to me but people can forget about me being obligated to them. If I do respond to others or situations, it's only to net an immediate payoff." This attitude leads to a self-absorbed, uncaring outlook on life. Always looking for the easy way out, the Reckless Thinker will see violence (and the threats of violence) as an alternative to relating in a responsible, respectful manner.

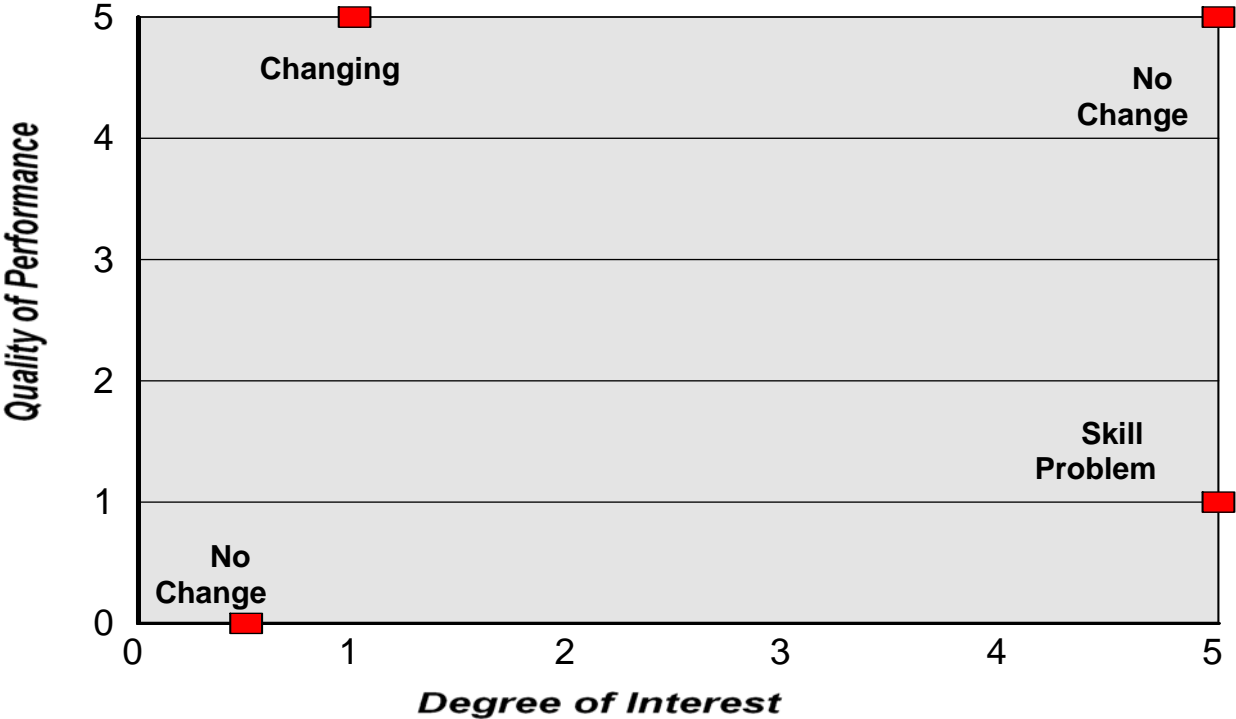
Brokenness

Being sorry isn't enough - the offender needs to be disgusted by what he did and how he got there. Repentance needs to be measured through changes in thinking. The change comes as we move away from our twisted, depraved heart and renew our mind as Christ dwells within us.

Correctives & Responses

- 1) The Reckless Thinker needs to sustain responsible performance over time.
- 2) The Reckless Thinker must distinguish between activities which are of genuine interest and responsible versus that which is for point scoring and/or a power thrust.
- 3) The Reckless Thinker must realize that obligation to others is the opposite of control.
- 4) The Reckless Thinker must pick winners and avoid association with other irresponsible thinkers.
- 5) You can tell there is genuine change as the Reckless Thinker's quality of performance improves even when there is a lack of interest. (*See handout*).

Recognizing Change in Reckless Thinking



Impatient Thinking

Scriptures: **Psalms 106:6-15 (NLT)** Both we and our ancestors have sinned. We have done wrong! We have acted wickedly! [7] Our ancestors in Egypt were not impressed by the Lord's miracles. They soon forgot his many acts of kindness to them. Instead, they rebelled against him at the Red Sea. [8] Even so, he saved them—to defend the honor of his name and to demonstrate his mighty power. [9] He commanded the Red Sea to divide, and a dry path appeared. He led Israel across the sea bottom that was as dry as a desert. [10] So he rescued them from their enemies and redeemed them from their foes. [11] Then the water returned and covered their enemies; not one of them survived. [12] Then at last his people believed his promises. Then they finally sang his praise.

[13] Yet how quickly they forgot what he had done! They wouldn't wait for his counsel!
[14] In the wilderness, their desires ran wild, testing God's patience in that dry land.
[15] So he gave them what they asked for, but he sent a plague along with it.

Proverbs 12:15 (NLT) Fools think they need no advice, but the wise listen to others.

Proverbs 18:13 (NLT) What a shame, what folly, to give advice before listening to the facts!

Proverbs 21:5 (NLT) Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

Proverbs 24:27 (NLT) Develop your business first before building your house.

Proverbs 26:11 (NLT) As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.

Definition: Lack of time perspective
Does not use the past as a learning tool
Expects others to act immediately on your demands
Decisions are made based on assumptions, not facts
There is no future without memory—no past—just live for the present and the 'Big E'

Wires leading to Impatient Thinking:

Fragmentation -Lack of time continuum. There is no regard for the future unless they will manipulate it to serve their own purposes.

Failure to get the facts before making a decision enables the Impatient Thinker to avoid setting realistic goals. Remember, goals for the twisted thinker are for immediate gratification.

Closed Thinking is the foundation of Impatient Thinking. The fantasies and assumptions are all cultivated in secrecy.

The Criminal's Code and it's relationship to the demandingness regarding Impatient thinking;

- A. My own style of living - exciting and secretive
- B. Nothing in common with others except when I think it will benefit me.
- C. Life is a one-way-street – my way.
- D. Lie because it's easy.

- E. Trust those I can manipulate or use, obligate others to themselves
- F. I must keep others in their place – they must be vulnerable, not me.
- G. I don't need the facts or want the truth; it interferes with my intentions.
- H. My responsibility is to please me no matter what it takes.
- I. I live for the moment, therefore, I will act according to whatever I feel like at the moment.
- J. I will make right anything I want to. I will decide what is right for me and you at the time.

Correctives & Responses

1. Goal orientation is the basic correction. Review thinking in how it relates to goals. **Philip. 3:12-16 (NLT)** I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be. [13] No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, [14] I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven. [15] I hope all of you who are mature Christians will agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. [16] But we must be sure to obey the truth we have learned already.
Responsible people are persistent with goals and weather setbacks.
2. Identify patterns of irresponsible decision-making and the consequences. Fantasies are involved and erode deterrents (including the immediate consequences and realizing who gets hurt).
3. Make decisions based on a thorough investigation of the facts.
4. Need to stop and assess who gets damaged.
5. Assume obligation to others and deliberately postpone gratification of desires.