

ABSTRACT

This study is an attempt to address the problem of people preferring to sacrifice healthy relationships and good character in order to experience their own preferred reality. An investigation was made of the types of distorted thinking used by two groups of people in two different periods of history, one during the time of Christ and the other in this present century. An exegetical/expository method of research was employed to expose the types of distorted thinking of individuals or groups mentioned in the Gospel of Luke, who were directly rebuked by Jesus Christ for failing to conform their thinking to God's perspective of reality. Interviews were conducted to ascertain the types of distorted thinking employed by a particular group of people alive today.

The term *distorted thinking* refers herein to all fallacies, and any thinking that is clearly rebelling against or ignoring truth and compassion—in essence, God's revealed Word—that which represents God's perspective on reality as it was, is, and will be. An amalgamation with minor adaptations of three different versions of fifteen types of distorted thinking cited in the literature was used to describe the distortions found in the study. It was discovered that the types of distorted thinking Christ confronted in the book of Luke were basically no different than those still resorted to today, even among those who proclaim allegiance to Christ. The results confirmed that the root of the problem is an erroneous understanding of God, the result of a nonexistent or less than an optimally intimate relationship with him. Suggestions for overcoming distorted thinking are presented in the final chapter.