

# **Cognitive Dissonance**

## **Things That Do Not Belong Together**

### **Romans 6:1-2**

Some actions do not belong together. The thoughts that produce them are not compatible, thus cognitive dissonance—brain mismatch! Our lives can, therefore, become quite contradictory. We are subject to living a life that travels in opposite, unharmonious directions. Let's investigate some of these mental disconnects and the behaviors that spring from them.

#### **Cognitive Dissonance (Disharmony of the Brain Leading to Contradictory Living)**

- Romans 6:1-2, 14-15 and sin
- James 3:8-12 and our speech
- Luke 6:46 and the Lordship of Christ
- Matthew 6:33 and priorities
- Ephesians 5:19 and worship
- Romans 6:4 and a new life
- Hebrews 5:12-14 and maturity
- I Peter 2:1-2 and logic
- I Peter 2:19-20 and favor with Jesus

Wow! This cognitive dissonance thing really takes us from preaching to meddling doesn't it! I suggest we all give more thought to our thoughts, make sure they are compatible with Jesus, and thus harmonious in their combined direction. Life needs to add up if it is to bring personal growth and allow for effective influence. Let the Bible be like our *Garanimals* (I date myself) guide to being dressed in matching thoughts and actions. Remember, at baptism we clothe ourselves in Christ.

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