

LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU

Phil. 2:5-8

I. INTRODUCTION: 1, 2

1. **3** There's no doubt that if we are to ever have any hope of heaven we must be like Christ: "*But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*" (Rom. 8:9).
2. In connection with the Spirit revealed will of God (1 Cor. 2:1-16) Paul said, "...we have the mind of Christ." (1 Cor. 2:16) So, when do we have the "mind of Christ"?
 - A. When we allow Him to dwell in our hearts through faith (Eph. 3:17; Rom. 10:17), an obedient faith! Rom. 6:17; Heb. 5:9
 - B. When we "imitate" Him in every thought and action.

1 Cor. 11:1: *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

1 Jn. 2:6: *He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*
3. So the only possible way for us to find true spiritual life is to possess the mind of Christ!

Rom. 8:10: *And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*
4. Let us examine the mind of Christ that we might "imitate Christ"; making His mind our mind that we may have true spiritual life and the hope of heaven.

I. DISCUSSION:

1. **4 Mind of Humility**

- A. Christ is the ultimate example of humility and we are commanded to possess the same mind of humility (Phil. 2:5-8). Do we really appreciate the humility Jesus displayed? (elaborate on this passage; Matt. 26:53; 12 legions of angels; ~6,000 infantrymen + 600 horsemen in a Roman legion; 2 Kgs. 19:35)
- B. Most folks find it very hard to possess a mind of humility, but Jesus plainly taught such to be an absolute requirement for Christians (Matt. 20:25-28; Jn. 13:12-17).
- C. Many think they have to be assertive and aggressive to make their way in the world, but there is no room in the kingdom of God for such folks!

Prov. 18:12: *Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor is humility.*

1 Pet. 3:4: *rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.*

1 Pet. 5:5-6: *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,*
- D. ****** The glory of exaltation is only found at the end of the road of humiliation! Phil. 2:7-11

2. **Mind of Unselfishness**

- A. Jesus gave up everything for us!

2 Cor. 8:9: *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*

Phil. 2:6-8: *who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

Isa. 53:3: *He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*

B. Acceptable service to God requires the same unselfish mind in us. Willing to give up all!

Lk. 14:26: *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”*

C. We live in a society whose mantra is, “If I like it and it feels good then I’m going to do it. And, who does God think he is if he says otherwise!” Christ had no such mind!

Rom. 15:3: *For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.”*

D. Let us all possess an unselfish mind totally committed to pleasing God and not ourselves!

Jn. 4:34: *Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”*

Matt. 26:39: *He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”*

E. One day the farm animals decided to cook farmer John a nice breakfast: the cow said she would provide the milk if the hen would provide the eggs and the pig the bacon. But you see, the cow and hen were only making a donation while the pig was making a “total commitment”!

3. 6 Mind of Love

A. Christ’s every thought and action was motivated by His love for man and for His Father.

Jn. 15:13: *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.*

Rom. 5:6-8: *For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

B. We are to “walk in love” imitating Christ.

Eph. 5:1-2: *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*

C. Such a walk is the mark of a true disciple.

Jn. 13:34-35: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

I Cor. 16:14: *Let all that you do be done with love.*

(1) Love is the very foundation of our faith.

Eph. 3:17: *that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,*

Col. 3:14: *But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.*

(2) Love is the motivation by which we speak the truth (Eph. 4:15; 2 Tim. 4:2).

(3) Unity is impossible without such love.

Eph. 4:1-3: *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Rom. 12:10: *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;*

D. Love does not preclude obedience! 1 Cor. 2:9-10

Jn. 14:23-24: *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.*

4. **7 Mind to Work**

A. Jesus was a worker.

Jn. 9:4: *I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.*

Jn. 17:4: *I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.*

B. Impossible to record all the work He did.

Jn. 21:25: *And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.*

C. We too must have a "mind to work" (Neh. 4:6; 6:15).

(1) Ever heard of the 80:20 rule? In most organizations, 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people.

(2) If everyone put in the amount of effort you put in for the Lord, what would happen to this congregation?

D. Many times we don't see the fruit of our labor; that doesn't mean it's not there!

Isa. 55:11: *So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

Gal. 6:9: *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

1 Cor. 3:6-9

1 Cor. 15:58: *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

5. **8 Mind of Forgiveness**

A. If you were in Jesus' place would you have been able to say what He said?

Lk. 23:34: *Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."*

B. Notice what Paul told the brethren at Corinth concerning the repentant fornicator:

2 Cor. 2:7: *so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.*

C. We must remember that God only forgives us as we practice forgiveness.

Matt. 6:14-15: *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

D. Only by putting on the mind of Christ can we develop a forgiving mind.

Col. 3:12-13: *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.*

6. 9 Mind of Unity

A. Notice the mind of unity possessed by Christ.

Jn. 17:20-21: *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”*

B. A large part of His mind of unity is demonstrated by His total submission to the Father’s will!

Jn. 6:38: *For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

C. We too must possess such a mind (1 Cor. 1:10 [...speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.]; 1 Pet. 4:11).

Rom. 12:16: *Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.*

D. We have no hope of achieving true unity without such a mind.

Eph. 4:1-3: *1, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

1 Pet. 3:8: *Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; (Remember Joseph!)*

7. 10 Mind to Sacrifice

A. Jesus voluntarily made the ultimate sacrifice (Phil. 2:5-8).

Heb. 2:9: *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

Heb. 7:27: *who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.*

B. The late John F. Kennedy said, “ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country.”

(1) We live in a time where most folks are “navel gazers” (explain).

(2) A “navel gazer” is completely absorbed with “self.”

Phil. 3:18-19: *For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame — who set their mind on earthly things.*

(3) People pick a “church” for what that church can do for them. What kind of “youth program?”

(4) People come to worship, not to direct their worship toward God, but to be entertained. The focus is in the wrong direction! Spectators versus participants! Jn. 4:24

(5) We need to modify JFK’s quote to say, “ask not what the Lord or His church can do for you, but what can you do for the Lord and His church.”

C. Our development of a sacrificial mind is an absolute requirement!

Rom. 12:1-2: *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Gal. 4:15: *What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.*

2 Tim. 4:6-8: *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

8. **II Mind of Obedience**

A. Jesus was the ultimate example of obedience (Phil. 2:5-8).

Heb. 5:8-9: *though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,*

B. If we do not obey, our discipleship is hollow (Lk. 6:46; Matt. 7:21-27) and we do not really love the Lord (1 Cor. 2:9-10).

Jn. 15:10: *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*

Jn. 15:14: *You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.*

III. **12 CONCLUSION:**

1. Do you have the mind of Christ? **Phil. 2:5:** *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

2. Have you obeyed His gospel?

2 Thess. 1:7-9: *and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,*

3. Do you abide in His word?

Jn. 8:31: *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."*

Adapted from a sermon, *Possessing the Mind of Christ*, by Johnie Edwards in *Gospel Meeting Sermons* (pp. 68-70). Published by *Faith and Facts*, P.O. Box 681275, Indianapolis, IN 46268