

The Mind of Christ

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Philippians 2:1-11

Philippians Sermon Series

June 19, 2022 (Father's Day)

Can you imagine being around Jesus? His is the most brilliant, creative, imaginative, and beautiful mind of any person who has ever lived. After all, He is fully human AND fully GOD. If we only considered His human qualities, there is still none like Him before or since, but He is so much more than merely human. Jesus Christ is the second Person in the godhead. The “Son of God” is not a lesser designation, like “God, Jr.” Jesus said, “*Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.*” (John 14:9)

Incredibly, Paul invites us to share in the mind of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 2, Paul explains that Jesus’ mind was not the secular approach. Jesus came to reveal the mindset of the Lord has a completely different value system than ours. The good news is that salvation is holistic—including the revelation of Jesus’ mind in us.

What do we mean when we talk about having the mind of Christ? Since Jesus loved to pray, so should we. Since Jesus knew scripture, so should we. Since Jesus loved to worship, so should we. Since He treasured friendships, so should we. Since Jesus served with a glad and generous heart, so should we. Since Jesus forgave those who hurt Him, so should we. Since Jesus had a mission and purpose, so should we. Since Jesus cared about lost people, so should we. Since Jesus had a heavenly focus, so should we. Our minds can be made new (Romans 12:2). We no longer have to be stuck. Old ways can be replaced with new ways. His mind can be in us, too. That fills us with tremendous hope, love, joy, and peace. What a surpassing gift.

People can and do change. A friend recently told me about his friend whose addiction to alcohol was literally killing him. His friend had a major health incident and while he was in the hospital instantly lost all desire to drink. His immediate transformation has lasted for years. People can and do change. Our Celebrate Recovery ministry lives this out every Monday night. We believe that the Lord can work in any situation for transformation. That renewal of the mind is what happened to Paul. Acts 9 describes the dramatic story of his mind being made new.

APPLICATION: Memorize verse 2:5 this week: *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.* Having **THE MIND OF CHRIST** is our theme. Paul introduces having the mind of Christ by saying we should not just look after our own interests but after the interest of others. That is a form of repentance—turning from our agenda to God’s. When we do things God’s way, we will be lifted up. If we do it our way, we will be brought low. How can we allow Jesus’ mind to be in us? How are you cooperating with the Lord to let your mind be renewed?

Intro: This sermon series is “Developing Affections.” What do we mean by that? Our reading today begins with a list of affections. WHAT MAKES A CHURCH ATTRACTIVE? (Wouldn’t you like to be part of THIS CHURCH?) Vs. 1 *any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy.* As we read the text, ask this question: HOW do we create these six things (*encouraging, comforting, loving, participating, affectionate, and sympathetic*) in our church? Isn’t this what we want in a church? Isn’t that our expectation? Why are our experiences not that so often? This would be a church full of people who really CARED!

Philippians 2:1-11 p 1165 (John Vick reads/leads congregation)

So, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Let’s focus on v5 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.** Think of Jesus and how magnificent He was/is. While tempted in every way, He was w/o sin. Instead of pride, He chose humility. Instead of envy, He rooted for others to succeed. While angry on occasion, it was for a righteous purpose. He was gentle, kind, and was “The Prince of Peace.” He was generous, not greedy. Jesus loved parties but was not a glutton. He fasted/prayed. He was not slothful or lazy but had passionate energy for the things of God. He was not personally ambitious but lived and died to advance the kingdom of God. He was not bitter or resentful but forgave others, even upon the cross. He did not compromise – he drank from the cup and was faithful to death.

“This mind” is a “mindset” or “attitude.” It is our wonderful gift: *yours in Christ Jesus.*

HOW do we get the Mind of Christ? (Mindset, Attitude)

- 1.) Be **IN CHRIST + IN THE SPIRIT** We don’t do this on our own – salvation is not earned, it is a gift from God. However, we can cooperate with it. This mindset is DEVELOPED. We can learn new ways.
- 2.) **UNITY** – *being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.* This was Jesus’ prayer in John 17.
- 3.) **HUMILITY** - *Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of*

others. This can be hard to do for some. The Pharisees withheld approval, acceptance, and affection for Jesus. The truth is it doesn't cost me anything or diminish me to affirm/build others up.

who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God... Jesus is God (*equal with God*) not just another good teacher. A startling claim. He is the Creator God. **He is GOD.** Colossians 1:15-20 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.* Jesus is omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, He didn't **grasp** it but released His rights as God. (There is a way to catch a monkey. You get a gourd, tie a rope to it, and anchor it in the ground. Put shiny beads inside a hole in the gourd that the monkey can hear when he shakes it and can see the objects. Then he will put his hand in a hole in the gourd that he can barely squeeze his hand through, and he will grab the beads but cannot pull his hand out with a clenched fist. He can let go of the beads, pull his hand out, and walk away, but he won't. He's captured by his greed. Like monkeys, a lot of people are captured by greed, too. They have a clenched fist, not an open hand. Jesus did not grasp his prerogative as God – but released it. God became a **HUMAN**. God became a human being. Flesh and blood. Born in a manger in Bethlehem, not in a palace in Rome. And not just human but he a **SERVANT**. 13 of Jesus' parables have servants in them. Some perform menial tasks (burn weeds, collect wheat, get a fattened calf, serve food, make sure people are dressed properly) while others are asked to use the authority of the master while the master is away. And not just a servant but an **OBEDIENT** servant (He didn't have an attitude). He didn't hobnob with the rich and powerful but was with the poor, lowly, outcasts: children, women, tax collectors, the sick. He washed feet. To wash feet, you touch the lowest parts of the lowliest people. "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." And not just an obedient servant but one who **DIED**. And not just a normal death at old age, but the worst and most shameful death of all – He was **CRUCIFIED**.

Another way to say it: ***Born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Crucified, Dead, Buried***

BUT.....On the 3rd day he rose from the dead Ascended into heaven Sittiteth at the right hand of God the Father From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead

1 Peter 5:5-7 tells what happens when we humble ourselves. ***God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*** ***Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*** He who had everything, emptied Himself with all humility and became a homeless man for us, so that we might find a home in heaven. And now Jesus has Jesus has **THE NAME** above every name.

If we don't believe the Lord will exalt us, we promote ourselves. Jim Dunn, the President of Oklahoma Wesleyan University in Bartlesville, served on a jury this week in Washington County. I asked about the nullification process. He said when the judge learned he was a pastor she asked, *"In your opinion, what do think is society's biggest problem?"* Jim said, *"It's the worship of self."* He said some on the jury told him that when they went to dinner that night his answer was the topic of their conversation.

If think the core of Jesus' mindset is best described in these two words: **"CONFIDENT HUMILITY."** Jesus was confident in His role. He was not insecure. He knew who He was (GOD), but was humble, not arrogant, or competitive (like James/John wanting to sit on his Right/left hand) in His relationships. It wasn't one OR the other – it was BOTH/AND.

Here's the good news – we have THIS MIND in us, too, as a gift from Christ Jesus. Confident Humility can be learned. *"Let this mind be in you!"* Let there be ***encouragement, comfort, love, participation in the Spirit, affection and sympathy.*** Receive Christ into your life (again) today. Let this mind be in you!