

“How To Have the Mind of Christ” *Rom. 8:5-8*

Open:

- Man will naturally mind (be drawn towards, pay attention to, or apply oneself to.) the things of the flesh.
 - This is very important for your class to understand. Only once we realize our carnal nature can we see the need and the importance of thinking like Christ.
 - Notice the desire of the new man to do right, but the constant presence of the old nature. **Rom. 7:18-19** *“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. [19] For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.”*
 - Stress the fact that you were a child of the devil, serving the flesh; before you became a child of God, serving the Spirit. **Eph. 2:2-3** *“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: [3] Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”*
- Once a person gets saved, they are given, by God, a desire to live a life that is pleasing to God.
 - Notice the natural battle between what the natural man, the old nature, or the flesh wants and what the new man or the new nature wants.
 - Notice the painstaking desire to not serve the flesh, but to serve God. **Rom. 7:22-25** *“For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: [23] But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. [24] O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? [25] I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”*
 - Notice how the Spirit is desiring for the body to not serve the flesh; and recognize how once a person gets saved, they have a harder time finding pleasure in the old lifestyle. **Gal. 5:17** *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”*
- We must realize that we will never get rid of our sin nature; but we can choose to submit our mind to serve God and choose not to serve the flesh.
 - You should stress to your class that choosing to have the mind of Christ is a spiritual choice, not an emotional decision.
 - Notice the strength of the emphasis placed on living for God, and not living in the flesh. We are to have the same mindset towards living the Christian life as Christ had toward dying on the cross. **I Peter 4:1-2** *“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind**: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; [2] That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.”*
 - Realize the choice is up to us. **Phil. 2:5** *“**Let** this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”*

➤ How Can we have the Mind of Christ?

I. By reading the same Word.

- A. We find a group of Christians living in an exciting time of revival, but they are set apart from the rest of the Christians because of their mindset towards the Word of God. **Acts 17:11** *“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”*
1. Notice they placed themselves under Bible teaching (Sunday School, Sunday Church, Wednesday Bible study, and even Godly counsel.)
 2. Notice they read the Bible for themselves every day.
 - If either one of these two things is missing, the Christian life will be incomplete; and that Christian will find himself not having the mind of Christ.
- B. Notice this list of what we are to think about. **Phil. 4:8** *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”* Then recognize that all of these things we are to think about can only come from God, and his word.

II. By Having the same goals.

- A. In order for us as individual Christians, who all have different personalities, opinions, and views of life, to get along; we must be willing to take our eyes off ourselves and focus on the things that God says are important. **Col. 3:1-2** *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. [2] Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”*
- B. Not only should we be focused on God and the things that God says are important; but we should be proving our love to God, by doing what He says is important. **Lk. 10:26-28** *“He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? [27] And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. [28] And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.”*
- C. We should all make sure that we not only are seeking to obey God, but also make sure that we are not conforming the natural fleshly thinking of the world. We need to make sure that we are remaining humble and not getting proud because we begin to see growth in our Christian life.
1. **Rom 12:3** *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*
 2. **Rom. 12: 16** *“Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.”*
- D. We should remain focused on making sure that God is the one that gets the glory. We should not be jealous, bitter, or upset because someone else gets the credit. We are all on the same team.
- Rom. 15:6** *“That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

III. By yielding to the same Spirit.

A. We must be willing to exchange what we want for what He wants. We must crucify the carnal desires of the flesh.

1. **Rom. 12:1-2a** *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..."*

2. **Col. 8-13** *"But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. [9] Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; [10] And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"*

B. We cannot walk in the flesh, like the world, and possess the mind of Christ. We must yield ourselves and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit **Eph. 4:17** *"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, [18] Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:"*

1. **Col. 3:2-3a** *"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. [3] For ye are dead..."*

2. **Col. 5a** *"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth..."*

Close:

- Victory in your Christian life is solely dependent on whether or not you are carnally minded or spiritually minded. **Rom. 8:6** *"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."*
- What you think about will be revealed in your works. **Titus 1:16** *"They profess that they know God: but in works they deny him, being abominable, & disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."*
- The real battlefield of the child of God is the battle of the mind. **I Peter 1:13** *"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober..."*

Phil. 2:5

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: