THE MIND OF CHRIST

T. J. Hunt & Claude V. King

YOUTH EDITION
the Mind of Christ

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T.W. Hunt & Claude V. King

Youth Learning Activities Written by James Jackson

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**T. W. Hunt** was the Prayer Specialist in the Adult Discipleship and Family Development Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board before he retired in September, 1994. He was Professor of Church Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, for 24 years. Dr. Hunt authored *Disciple's Prayer Life: Walking in Fellowship with God* (with Catherine Walker), *The Doctrine of Prayer, Music in Missions: Discipling Through Music, From Heaven's View* (with Melana Hunt Monroe), and has written numerous articles for a variety of periodicals. A native of Arkansas, Dr. Hunt graduated from Ouachita Baptist College and received the Master of Music and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from North Texas State University. He lives in Spring, Texas, with his wife Laverne. They have one daughter, Melana, and six grandchildren.

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Let me ask you a question. What is your mind? You might be tapping your finger to your forehead right now in answer to that question. Your mind is that six or so inches between your ears, right? It’s that complex system of billions of cells, neurons, dendrites, and synapses that control your body functions and muscle movements. It’s where information is stored, and memories are retrieved. And, in some weird way that nobody really understands, it’s also the place where emotions and feelings are generated. That’s your mind, right?

Actually, that’s your brain. The brain is the physical organ that fills up your skull. Your mind is something far more complex. If the brain is the organ that controls how the body will respond to different things, the mind controls why you respond to things the way you do. If the brain is where information is stored, the mind deals with what information gets up there in the first place. And if the brain is where emotions and feelings come from, the mind determines what those emotions are and how you feel about things.

Those are all crucial issues for you as a teenager. Wouldn’t it be great if you had someone to help you “make up your mind”? Or imagine this: what if a scientist could somehow transplant the greatest mind that ever was into your head? You would still be you, of course; we’re not talking some weird “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” thing. Everything that makes you who you are would still be the same. Only now, you would have a mind that would always steer you in the right direction, always help you make right decisions, and give your life a sense of peace and joy that you never dreamed possible. Would you want to have a mind like that?

That mind is the mind of Christ. And for a Christian, having the mind of Christ is not just an option, it’s an obligation! Paul wrote, Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:5, KJV). That’s a command!

Now, instead of just tapping your forehead, you might be scratching it. How is it possible for me to have the mind of Christ? I barely got through algebra, and you expect me to have the same mind as the Creator of the universe? You must be joking!

It sounds daring to talk about an ordinary, everyday teenager having the mind of Christ. But we have to realize that God wouldn’t give us a command it was impossible for us to obey. The fact is, God created us to be like Jesus. The Bible states that whom He foreknew, (that’s us!) He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren (Rom. 8:29). That means that God is constantly at work to make us more like Christ. Acting the way Jesus acts! Loving the way He loves! Thinking the way He thinks!

That’s what this course is all about—learning to think the thoughts of Christ. In other words, this course will help you develop the mind of Christ.
If You’re Not Sure You’re a Christian

Have you ever heard the saying, “You have to learn to walk before you learn to fly”? That saying applies to this course. *The Mind of Christ* is designed to help you “take off” in your relationship with Christ. But, it assumes you already have a relationship with Christ. So, if you’re not sure, **DO NOT SKIP THIS SECTION!**

The rest of this book will make no sense to you if you haven’t taken this first step. So, spend some time reading the following Scriptures. Ask God to talk with you about your life.

- **John 3:16** You matter to God, and He desires a relationship with you.
- **Romans 3:23** You, me, and everyone else in the world is guilty of sin.
- **Romans 6:23** The payment for that sin is death, but God has provided a way out through Jesus.
- **Romans 5:8** Jesus’ death on the cross is the way God made for us to have a relationship with Him again.
- **Romans 10:9-10** Agree with God that Jesus is Lord, and believe God raised Him from the dead.
- **Romans 10:13** Ask God to save you and He will.

To place your faith in Jesus and receive His gift of eternal life, you must:

- Recognize that you are a sinner, and you need a saving relationship with Christ.
- Confess (agree with God about) your sins.
- Repent of your sins (Be sorry for them, turn away from them, and turn to God).
- Ask Jesus to save you by His grace.
- Turn over the rule of your life to Jesus. Let Him be your Lord (boss or manager).

If you need help, talk with your pastor, youth minister, parents, or a Christian friend. If you have taken these steps, and have just made this important decision, call somebody right now and tell them! Then, share the decision with your church.

The Purpose of This Course

*The Mind of Christ* is not a biography of Jesus. There are lots of those. Four of them, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are in the Bible. You may want to choose one of those to read on your own as we go through *The Mind of Christ* together. (Especially if you just became a Christian. I suggest you start with John.) *The Mind of Christ* focuses on the ideas found in *Philippians* 2:5-11. But I want this course to be more than just ideas in your everyday life. For that to happen, here’s what you have to do:

- Pray before every study time. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand it and apply it to your everyday life.
- Don’t be afraid to go off on tangents. That may be the Holy Spirit taking you on another learning adventure. Since it would be impossible for any one course to say everything there is to say about the mind of Christ, let this study be suggestive of other topics. Follow up on tangents. That’s the Holy Spirit developing the mind of Christ in you!
My Prayer for You
I really hope this course will just be the beginning of a lifetime of developing the mind of Christ. Trust me—you’re not going to have it all at the end of the next 12 weeks! But God will begin something in you in the next three months that will never stop. I’m praying for you as you work through this material.

God, I may never meet the brother or sister who is reading this book right now. But I pray that you would reveal your Son Jesus to him or her in the next several weeks. Jesus, be glorified as my friend reads and studies, and give my friend Your Holy Spirit to help make this apply to his or her everyday life at school, at church, at work, and at home. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

T.W. Hunt
Spring, Texas
August, 1995
Overview of The Mind of Christ

Paul said, *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus* (Phil. 2:5, KJV). We want to help you keep that command. When Jesus said, “*the kingdom of God is within you*” (Luke 17:21, KJV), He was emphasizing an inner process of becoming more like Him. The place where that happens is the mind. That’s where God wants to work. Each day of this course, God will be bringing changes into your life. Although they are inward changes, they will bear outward fruit as your attitudes, habits, and lifestyle become more pleasing to God.

With this in mind, we’ll be looking at *Philippians 2:5-11*, a hymn that was probably used in early church worship. The hymn is divided into six parts for our study:

**PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11**

**Part 1 The Freedom of Christ**
*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus (v. 5).*

**Part 2 The Lifestyle of Christ**
*Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped (v. 6).*

**Part 3 The Servanthood of Christ**
*But emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men (v. 7).*

**Part 4 The Humanity of Christ**
*And being found in appearance as a man (v. 8).*

**Part 5 The Holiness and Love of Christ**
*He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (v. 8).*

**Part 6 The Name of Christ**
*Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (vv. 9-11).*

We’re going to look at the six parts of this hymn together, and see how God wants to work in you to make you more like His Son, Jesus.

- Unit 1 will help you understand the three-stage process through which God will guide you. You will see what having a Christlike mind is like.
- The work really begins in Units 2 and 3, as God sets you free from the bondage of sin.
- In Units 4 and 5, you will learn 17 virtues of the mind of Christ, and God will be working to develop these virtues in your life.
- Unit 6 will help you understand the importance of servanthood, following the example of Christ. God will be working on developing the characteristics of a servant in your life.
Units 7-10 focus on the humanity of Christ. Sometimes we forget that Jesus was a real, flesh-and-blood person. But He was, and He is our perfect example of what God intends humanity to be. We will study the Beatitudes, emotions, relationships with things and people, and living in the Spirit.

How do love and holiness work together? How do they enhance each other? That's what Unit 11 is all about. God will be working in you to make you holy and to teach you to love with a Christlike love.

We will wrap up in Unit 12 with a high point of the hymn, as we examine how God has exalted Christ through His names. You will be challenged to allow Christ to be absolute Lord of your life.

Will you be finished developing the mind of Christ at the end of 12 weeks? I don’t think so! This is just the beginning of a lifelong process for you as God continually renews your mind and life to reflect the image of His Son Jesus.

Getting the Most Out of This Course
The Mind of Christ is a course designed to provide quality Christian education to youth like you in the areas of discipleship, leadership, and ministry. These characteristics apply to The Mind of Christ, Youth Edition.

- You will spend between 30 and 60 minutes a day with this self-paced workbook, completing the learning activities as you go along.
- Once a week, you will meet in a small group session, which will last from one to two hours.
- You will have an adult course leader who will guide you and the other members of your group to reflect on and talk about what you have learned during the week, and how to apply it to your everyday life. Your small group will be a base of support for you as you help each other understand and apply the Scriptures to life.
- When you complete The Mind of Christ, Youth Edition you may receive a diploma from the Christian Growth Study Plan system. See page 224 for details.

Some Additional Tips
- Take the discipline of giving daily time to this study seriously. Don’t just sign up for this course because everyone else in the youth group is. Pray about it first. If you’re not going to have the time for it, then don’t take it.
- Study only one lesson at a time. If you get behind, resist the temptation to “cram” a lot of lessons into a single day. This isn’t like chemistry, where you memorize a lot of formulas for a test and then forget them as soon as the test is over. You’ve got to let these thoughts sink in to your understanding and practice. That takes time.
- Don’t skip any of the learning activities. They will help you learn and apply these truths to your life, and will help you establish a personal daily walk with Christ. Many activities will lead you to interaction with God through prayer, meditation, and Bible Study. If you skip these, you may be skipping an encounter with God that could radically change your life. Your love relationship with God is the most important thing in your life. More important than school, more important than activities, even more important than family, friends, boyfriends, or girlfriends. Without an intimate relationship with God, you miss out on what He wants to do in and through your life.
Memorizing Scripture

Jesus knew Scripture. He quoted it all the time. If we are going to have the mind of Christ, we have to make the same commitment to knowing Scripture. Scripture memorization is an important discipline you will be called on to develop during this study. At the back of this book are cards containing all the key passages in *The Mind of Christ, Youth Edition* use the cards to help you memorize the Scriptures.

1. Read the verse and think about the meaning.
2. Put the card somewhere you’ll see it every day, such as in your locker, on your bathroom mirror, or on the dashboard of your car. You may even want to make additional copies of the card, or write each phrase from the verse on a different card.
3. Glance at the first phrase and say it out loud. Glance at the next phrase and say both phrases out loud. Continue this process until you’ve said the whole verse.
4. Try to say the verse from memory later in the day. If you can’t say the complete verse, glance at the card to refresh your memory.
5. Repeat the verse several times each day for a week or until you feel this verse is firmly implanted in your mind.

Lifelong Helps

Like we said before, you’re not going to finish this course in three months. *The Mind of Christ* is simply an introduction to a lifelong process of allowing God to mold and shape your life into the image of Christ. God will work on you every day in a process that won’t end on this side of heaven. You will always need God’s renewal process in your mind and in your life.

We have provided some tools to help you in this process. The section at the back of this book called “Lifelong Helps” (pp. 189-220) will help you regularly examine your mind and your life. In that process God will be at work revealing the things that should be removed, and He will be transforming your thinking and your lifestyle to reflect Christ. You can turn to these Lifelong Helps long after our three months together are over.

Small Group

Your small-group time is crucial to your success in this course. Together you will discuss the content you studied the previous week, share insights and testimonies, encourage each other, and pray together. These groups should not be any larger than 10 people. The larger the group gets, the less closeness and intimacy they’ll develop, the less they’ll share, and the more people will be absent and eventually drop out. If more than 10 people want to study the course, enlist additional leaders for each group of 6 to 10.
If you’ve started studying *The Mind of Christ, Youth Edition* by yourself, get some friends to study the course with you. You will discover that your friends can help you more fully understand and know God’s working in your life. The small group becomes a place where you can practice *Hebrews 10:23-25*:

> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

*Hebrews 10:23-25*

God wants us to help each other, encourage each other toward love and good deeds, and be a support to one another. Don’t try to do it all by yourself. God has already called us to be the body of Christ. Now, He is calling you to develop the mind of Christ as well.
What Is in This Unit for Me?
This unit will help you understand what God wants to do with you during this course (and for the rest of your life). You will understand what God expects of you as you develop the mind of Christ. You will also begin to grow closer to God than you’ve ever been before as you practice prayer and Bible study.

Lifelong Objective
In Christ, you will set your mind, renew your mind, and prepare your mind. God will develop in you a spiritual mind that is characterized as alive, single-minded, lowly, pure, responsive, and peaceful.

How God Will Be Working in You
God wants you to be like Christ. More than any other part of your personality, your mind is what He will measure most often for Christlikeness. God helps you grow by revealing His expectations for you in His Word. Through His Word, His work, His grace, and His Spirit, you can have the mind of Christ.

Unit Learning Goals
• You will understand the six characteristics of the Christlike mind.
• You will understand what God will be doing to develop these characteristics in your mind.
• You will understand the three stages in the process of developing the mind of Christ.
• You will show your willingness to set your mind on Christ and submit to His renewing of your mind.
• You will understand your role in developing the mind of Christ.
• You will understand the Apostle and the High Priest roles of Christ, and how to focus your thoughts in relation to them.
• You will demonstrate your commitment to developing the mind of Christ.
• You will study the characteristics of a Christlike mind.
• You will set your mind and attention on Christ.
• You will begin to allow Christ to renew your mind.
• You will strengthen your mind for action.

The Mind of Christ Cards Related to This Unit
1A. Scripture Memory—Philippians 2:5-8
1B. Scripture Memory—Philippians 2:9-11
2B. Three Stages in Developing the Mind of Christ
2A. Six Characteristics of a Christlike Mind
3A. Unit 1: Scripture Memory—Romans 12:2

Becoming Like Christ
Begin today’s lesson by reading the Bible verse and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.

Here we go! Welcome to The Mind of Christ. Today is the start of a lifelong process of growth for you. You will develop the mind of Christ.

Let me say that again. You will develop the mind of Christ.

That statement is a little mind-blowing, isn’t it? It seems a little too big to understand. But God has commanded us to “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). When you see that word “let” in there, that means it’s not just a suggestion. It’s a commandment! We’re not supposed to just have a good mind, or a disciplined mind, or even a moral mind—we are to have Christ’s mind! We’re not supposed to just look like Jesus. We are to think His very thoughts! We are to have the mind of the only perfect human being who ever walked on the earth—the mind of Christ, who was completely human and completely God at the same time.

Do you think we can do this in 12 weeks? Not! Like we said, this is the beginning of a lifelong process! So, let’s get started!

If you haven’t read the Introduction (pp. 8-11) you need to do that before you go any further. Please check the box when you’ve read it: ☐

Did you read in the margin the Scripture for Meditation, the Name of Christ for Today, and the Prayer to Begin the Lesson? If not, do that now, every day begin with reading these items for the day. They will help prepare you for our time together.

You will be learning many names of Christ in this study. What name did you learn today?

Those three activities were a breeze, weren’t they? But future activities will become more challenging and more meaningful. We just wanted you to get off to a good start. Remember, for God to have maximum opportunity to work in your life, you will need to complete each instruction or activity as best you can.

There are six places in the New Testament where we get a description of what the Christian’s mind is supposed to be like. In each place, the word mind is used. From these, we can come up with six characteristics of God’s ideal for your mind.

**Today’s Bible Meditation**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

—Romans 12:2

**Name of Christ for Today**

The Bread of Life

(John 6:35)

**Prayer to Begin the Lesson**

Jesus,

I am hungry and thirsty to be more like you. You are the Bread of Life itself. Fill me up with Your presence so that I can experience the abundant life You came to give.

Amen.
We’ll begin our study by looking at these six characteristics.

SIX CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHRISTLIKE MIND

1. Alive—The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace (Rom. 8:6).
2. Single-Minded—I am afraid, lest . . . your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ (2 Cor. 11:3).
3. Lowly—In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves (Phil. 2:3, KJV).
4. Pure—To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure (Titus 1:15, NIV).
5. Responsive—He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:45).
6. Peaceful—The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace (Rom. 8:6).

Throughout this course, you’ll be looking in detail at the life of Jesus. Every one of these characteristics were obvious in the way He lived His life. Let’s check out what each one means for your mind.

**Alive**

Paul tells us, *The mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace* (Rom. 8:6, NASB). Our first and last characteristics, alive and peaceful—come from this verse. A life without Christ is no life at all. In fact, Paul wrote that without Christ we are dead (Eph. 2:1). But in Christ, we have everlasting life (John 3:36). Jesus isn’t just talking about the fact of life either—you know, just breathing in and out. Jesus said that He came so that we could have abundant life (John 10:10). There’s a quality to life in Christ that those who don’t know Him don’t have. When you set your mind on the Spirit, you experience life.

*What is one characteristic of a Christlike mind?*

Do you have any control over what you think about? Of course you do! That’s why the will is so important. When Paul wrote, *The mind set on the flesh is death* (Rom. 8:6), he was writing about a decision of the will.

How can you tell if your mind is set on the Spirit? Life is distinguished by activity. The mind of Christ is never lazy. It enjoys being occupied. Sometimes it reflects on who God is. Sometimes it prays. It is evident when we talk to other people, Christian and non-Christians alike. The alive mind chooses the spiritual over the fleshly.

**Single-Minded**

A second description of the mind of Christ occurs in 2 Corinthians 11:3: *I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.* In other words, the Christlike mind is single-minded, or focused, in devotion to Christ.

We all struggle with being distracted. Especially these days. It’s hard to concentrate when your mind is bombarded with so many distractions. Think about
it. Even right now, as you're doing this study, there's a million other things for you to think about. Homework. Chores. Social activities this weekend. You're being pulled in a lot of different directions. But a single-minded Christian pays attention to Christ, His commands, His Person, and His ways.

Your mind needs to be preoccupied with sincere and pure devotion to Christ. Single-mindedness is the discipline of being focused. In future lessons, we will look at the importance of your will in depth. You can direct and control your attention with a focus on Christ and His kingdom.

✶ What is a second characteristic of a Christlike mind?

Lowly
Paul gives another description of the godly mind in Philippians 2:3: *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.* The mind is to be lowly. Lowliness and humility are a lot alike, and we'll be looking at humility in unit 6. But humility deals with our relationships with others. Lowliness is a state of mind. Humility flows out of lowliness.

The opposite of lowliness is pride and arrogance, or thinking too much of ourselves. In our world today, it's not easy to be lowly. Lowliness is a trait that must be cultivated. Christians learn to submit to one another by lowliness. How do we work on our lowliness? By concentrating on genuine appreciation for God's holiness. When we start with how holy God is, it's hard to be full of ourselves. Lowliness helps keep things in perspective.

Think about the people who encountered God in the Bible. They almost always started off experiencing genuine fear or terror before Him. This is a godly fear. When they met God, they knew the need for lowliness. They immediately saw what a big difference there was between God and themselves. When you have a clear view of God's greatness, you will have a proper view of yourself. The lowly Christian has the security of understanding his or her position under the greatness of God.

✶ What is a third characteristic of a Christlike mind?

✶ You have learned about the three characteristics of a Christlike mind. Write the appropriate characteristic in front of its definition.

___________ A proper perspective of my position under the greatness of God.
___________ Focused attention on Christ and His kingdom.
___________ Activity of the mind which chooses the spiritual over the fleshly.

✶ Wrap up today's lesson by focusing on Christ and His kingdom. Spend time in prayer.
• Talk to God about what He's doing or getting ready to do in your life, your church, and your school.
• Thank God for allowing you to become like His Son, Jesus Christ.
• Acknowledge your proper position of lowliness before His greatness.