



Key Phrase #3

WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST

Right off the bat I want to say that I hope you leave this study encouraged and excited, because this truth can truly change your life. When Paul wrote to the church at Colossae he said that his goal was that ...

"they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Colossians 2:2,3)

In Jesus are hidden all the TREASURES of wisdom and knowledge, and through his death on the cross we are united with him in love meaning we have access to all of those TREASURES! Imagine a great athlete or leader. Someone that you respect and has accomplished great things. Someone that you would never have access to in a million years. Not imagine that person knocking on your door one day and saying, "Hey I'm available any day any time to spend time with you to mentor and teach you all that I know." Would you take them up on their offer ... YES!!! But it gets even better. Not only do we have access to Christ but we have the very "MIND OF CHRIST." Read what Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church ...

"no one knows that thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit ... 'Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?' But we have the MIND OF CHRIST." 1 Corinthians 2:11-16

Read that again ... slowly ... take it in ... maybe write it out ... you have been given the Spirit of God, the Spirit who knows the thoughts of God. Through the Spirit we have the MIND OF CHRIST. Without walking in this truth we will never be able to walk in let alone understand the mysteries and truths of God.

If you have ever gone to a Chinese restaurant, for example, and heard the employees speaking Mandarin, you would swear that they could not possibly be speaking a language that anyone could understand, that they were just making funny sounding noises to amuse themselves. You would not recognize a single syllable that came from their mouths. You have no point of reference, no grid to comprehend their language.

In the same way the knowledge of God's mysteries make no sense whatsoever to the natural human mind. "Making everything that is seen from that which is unseen"? There is no event observable to our senses or even possible theoretically, scientifically, mathematically, that can fit our grid, our frame of reference. Likewise, nearly all observable human achievement has been obtained by superior power or knowledge and effort. Humility is a sign of weakness and love is something to be exploited to obtain something we need or want. This is how the natural mind works. It truly has been conditioned to believe and act on the idea of the survival of the fittest.

It is no wonder that the things of God ARE foolishness to the natural mind. Conquer by submitting? Overcome evil with good? Humble yourself to be exalted? Give in order to receive? Die in order to live? It makes no sense. This is exactly why we need the mind of Christ.

Did you ever go to a 3D movie and try to watch it without the special glasses? The picture is badly blurred and you cannot watch it for very long. But as soon as you put the glasses on, it suddenly becomes perfectly clear. It all makes sense and you enter a whole new reality.

This should also give you a great confidence in all of our battles with sin and temptation and our old through patterns. All of us struggle with thoughts of fear, inadequacy, sinful desires, doubts, and selfishness. We can feel helpless and hopeless in this battle. You must remember that you are not alone and that God has given us the power to overcome these mental battles. In God's power and authority and promise memorize and quote 2 Corinthians 10:5 whenever a thought comes in that is contrary to the MIND OF CHRIST ...

“We demolish arguments and every thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ.”

That is what the Mind of Christ does for us. It clarifies God's reality to us in order to transform our natural minds to be more attuned to the voice of the Holy Spirit, to learn to trust the God who works outside the realm of our senses. The Mind of Christ is vital to our living the life of a Christian. Let us walk in the fullness of what God provided for us!

Discussion Outline

- Review the Key Phrase: I recommend reading 1 Corinthians 2
- Take time to ponder, pray, and answer the following questions.
 - If I really believed this (key phrase) how would it change my life?
 - In what ways am I walking in this truth and in what ways do I struggle?
 - What tensions would this solve? What tensions may it create?
 - Find a Scripture or Biblical Principle that reflects this truth.
- Write down any thoughts you need to change and any steps you can take to walk in this truth?
- Pray for one another.

Additonal Questions to spark some thoughts:

What kind of mind-set do you think should define the Christian life?

What is the mind of Christ like? How do you know if you have it?

What are some obstacles to the Mind of Christ being manifested in our lives?

How do we overcome those obstacles?

What can it look like to have the mind of Christ in your closest relationships this week? Who can you serve as Christ has served you?

