**Think Again: Developing A Healthy Mind**

**What Is the Mind of Christ? – Part 2**

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Rev. Dr. Tony Soldano

# **SERMON DESCRIPTION**

Everyone is governed by something or someone; therefore, God has given Christ-followers the “Mind of Christ. Yes, you too can think as God does.

# **SERMON QUESTIONS**

1. What do we need to know?
* We have access to the mind of Christ.
1. Why do we need to know it?
* We can think as God does.

1. How should we apply it?
* To everyday life situations.

# **OPENING LINE**

In [1Corinthians 2:16](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Cor%202.16), Paul quotes [Isaiah 40:13](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2040.13) and then makes a statement concerning all believers: “We have the mind of Christ.”

# **INTRODUCTION**

Declare the following over your life:

***“I have the mind of Christ. My mind is healthy and sound. I declare healing and strength over every part of my mind, and I set my mind on the things that are above and not of the things of this world. Today I gird up the loins of my mind, my mind belongs to Christ, and I am submitted to the power, anointing and leading of Holy Spirit. My mind is governed by God. In Jesus name Amen”***

# **CENTRAL TRUTH**

Governed:

The brain that was in Jesus was made up of the same substance as our brain. In other words, His brain was very human, but it was under the governance of God. His brain and mind were very different and yet His mind is not unattainable.

Everyone is governed by something or someone.

# **MAIN PASSAGE**

**Isaiah 40: 13-14**

13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has taught Him? 14 With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding?

**Wisdom From the Spirit**

**1Corinthians 2:6-16**

**6**However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. **7**But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory, **8**which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

**9**But as it is written:

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

**10**But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. **11**For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. **12**Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

**13**These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **14**But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them,* because they are spiritually discerned. **15**But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. **16**For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

**OBSERVATIONS FROM THE PASSAGE**

1. Dichotomies from this passage, consider:



* 1. Two types of wisdom - one from God and one from the world
	2. Two type of people - one spiritual and one natural

*There are two types of men. There is the spiritual man, whose spirit is the temple and dwelling-place of the Spirit of God. He knows the thoughts of God, because he has a living union with the eternal Mind. And there is the natural man, possessing merely the intellect and conscience of ordinary humanity*. ~F.B.Meyer

(Source: https://www.biblecomments.org/c/22/frederick-brotherton-meyers-commentary/1-corinthians/2/6)

* 1. Two types of spirit – the spirit of the world and the spirit of God.
1. **HIDDEN** - At one time the things of God could not be understood but now they are revealed to the believer through the mind of Christ (vs. 7)
	1. It once was hidden but now it is known
	2. It comes by revelation by God’s own Spirit.
2. Every believer has been given the mind of Christ:
	1. All believers have access to it irrespective of age, gender and ethnicity
	2. Each believer has a responsibility to utilize it, grow into it and submit to it.
3. In the verses leading up to [1Corinthians 2:16](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Cor%202.16), we note some truths concerning the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ:
4. Stands in sharp contrast to the wisdom of man (verses 5-6)
5. Is given to believers through the Spirit of God (verses 10-12)
6. Cannot be understood by those without the Spirit (verse 14)
7. Gives believers discernment in spiritual matters (verse 15).

**MAIN POINTS**

Having the mind of Christ means sharing the plan, purpose, and perspective of Christ, and it is something that all believers possess. It means we identify with Christ’s purpose:

* “To seek and to save what was lost” ([Luke 19:10](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2019.10))
* It means we share Jesus’ perspective of humility and obedience ([Philippians 2:5-8](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Phil%202.5-8))
* Compassion ([Matthew 9:36](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%209.36))
* Prayerful dependence on God ([Luke 5:16](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%205.16)).

Through the mind of Christ the believer is able to understand God and perceive through His lens.

Having the mind of Christ means we understand God’s plan in the world:

* To bring glory to Himself
* Restore creation to its original splendor
* Provide salvation for sinners.

The mind of Christ can be broken down into three main categories:

1. Cognitive: the act or mental process of knowing
	1. The mind of Christ is an endless well of knowledge and wisdom.
	2. In order to have the mind of Christ, one must first have saving faith in Christ ([John 1:12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%201.12); [1 John 5:12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20John%205.12)).
* After salvation, the believer lives a life under God’s influence. The Holy Spirit indwells and enlightens the believer, infusing him with wisdom—the mind of Christ.
* The believer bears a responsibility to submit to the Spirit’s leading and influence ([Ephesians 4:30](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph%204.30))
* And to allow the Spirit to transform and renew his/her mind ([Romans 12:1-2](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%2012.1-2)).
	1. When we utilize the mind of Christ, our decision-making process improves because we utilize gifts and attributes from God including:
* Wisdom
* Understanding
* Knowledge

Better decisions improve our path and quality of life. By contrast, decisions get clouded when souls and emotions get involved.

1. Seeking and searching deep truths of God and His mysteries:
* As believers, we cannot do anything good unless we have the mind of Christ to lead us and guide us
* There is no searching for His understanding; it must be revealed
* We cannot understand God unless we have the mind of Christ or grow in the knowledge of God without the mind of Christ. We require the mind of Christ for understanding and knowledge and searching. Research thoughts and thinking.
1. Growing and developing in the knowledge of the Lord, includes:
* Understanding
* Revelation
* Critical thinking
* A positive thought processes
* Deduction and discernment

*“But we have the mind of Christ - He has endowed us with the same disposition, being born again by his Spirit; therefore we are capable of knowing his mind and receiving the teachings of his Spirit. These teachings we do receive, and therefore are well qualified to convey them to others.”**~Adam Clarke*

1. A regenerated mind has the ability to think like God thinks. The follower of Christ:
* Believes and accepts God’s perspectives as being the final authority
* Understands and acknowledges the ways of God and that they differ from:
* The ways of the world system
* Human philosophies and abilities
* Demonic agendas and priorities.
1. **Condition**: The state of health
	1. The mind of Christ speaks of the overall health and soundness of the mind. It is a state of perfect well-being and wholeness.
* It is not infected with illness or disease
* It does not decay in any manner or form
* It is not subject to fears, anxieties, depression, or discouragement
* It is not troubled or disturbed by evil or wayward thoughts
* It does not come under stress or anxiety
* It is unshaken by trouble, adversity, and spiritual warfare
* It does not fall victim nor is it subject to trauma.
	1. The mind of Christ is a “sound mind”. Paul described it as being under control and disciplined—it is sound and solid. It is not easily swayed or carried away. The mind of Christ is whole, pure and complete.
		+ 1. **2Timothy 1:7****For****G1063****God****G2316****hath not****G3756****given****G1325****us****G2254****the spirit****G4151****of fear;****G1167****but****G235****of power,****G1411****and****G2532****of love,****G26****and****G2532****of a sound mind.****G4995**
				1. **“SOUND” - G4995  (Thayer)**

Sophronismos

**Thayer Definition:**

1) an admonishing or calling to soundness of mind, to moderation and self-control

2) self-control, moderation

(**Part of Speech:** noun masculine)

* 1. When we have the mind of Christ we are in our “right mind”
	2. The mind of Christ heals our natural mind
	3. The mind of Christ is good, righteous and just. We cannot accomplish anything good for God unless we have His mind.
	4. The mind of Christ is victorious. The believer is encouraged to let this mind be in him
* Submit to the working of the Holy Spirit
* Apply the mind of Christ
* Be renewed in the spirit of the mind
* Mind these things
* Think on these things
* Gird up the loins of your mind
* Be on guard at all times.
1. **Character or attitudes**: Features, traits, and nature

**Philippians 2:5-7**

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 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.

* 1. The mind of Christ is the nature of God personified. It clearly outlines God’s characteristics, features and values that are part of His inherit nature. In other words, “it’s who He is”.
* Society in the body of Christ puts very little emphasis on character but rather promotes talent and ability.
	1. The mind of Christ behaves in certain ways. It contrasts with the conduct of the world which is based on greed, lust and corruption.
* The mind of Christ has certain attributes:
* Humility
* Integrity
* Truth
* Purity
* Compassion
* Obedience
* It is Beautiful – clean, right – it is HOLY.
	1. The mind of Christ is pure light, (illumination, and revelation). The mind of Christ is regenerative and renews our mind. It is:
		+ Brilliant, wise and accurate
		+ Useful
		+ Provides perspective
		+ Discerning
		+ On guard at all times
		+ It is not merely positive; it is grounded in the truth.
	2. In contrast, the worldly mind or the natural mind is:
		+ Depraved
		+ Futile and useless
		+ Twisted and warped
		+ Blind
		+ Debased
		+ Wicked
		+ Perverted.
	3. Emotional intelligence – The mind of Christ is able to express the highest level of EQ. Many times, when people struggle in this area it is not that they have a bad heart but rather that they are not processing things correctly in their mind.
1. When we speak about attributes and nature, what is the mind of Christ? The mind of Christ is:
* Love over hatred
* Light over darkness
* Faith over unbelief
* His vision over blindness
* His righteousness over iniquity
* His strength over weakness
* Humility over pride
* Truth over lies
* Holiness over evil

**The Mind of Christ Commentaries**

It is necessary in the local church for the pastor and teachers to declare the Gospel to the lost, but it is also important that they teach God’s wisdom to those who are maturing in the faith. It is impossible to build a strong church on the preaching of the Gospel alone; there must be the teaching of the plan and “mystery” of God. (A mystery is a truth hidden in the ages past revealed by the Spirit to those who belong to God’s family. It is a “family secret” known only to the initiated, not the outsiders.) Of course, the mystery that Paul taught at Corinth was the program of God for the present age as outlined in Ephesians 2-3: that Jew and Gentile are “one in Christ” through faith, and make up the one body which is the church. *~Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines*

**But we have the mind of Christ -**He has endowed us with the same disposition, being born again by his Spirit; therefore we are capable of knowing his mind and receiving the teachings of his Spirit. These teachings we do receive, and therefore are well qualified to convey them to others. *~Adam Clarke*

No one can know what the Lord is thinking (Romans 11:34), but through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, believers have insight into some of God's plans, thoughts, and actions. They, in fact, have "the mind of Christ." Through the Holy Spirit, we can begin to know God's thoughts, talk with him, and expect his answers to our prayers. Are you spending enough time with Christ to have his very mind in you? An intimate relationship with Christ comes only from spending time consistently in his presence and in his Word. Read Philippians 2:5 for more on the mind of Christ. *~Life Application Bible*

There are two types of men. There is the spiritual man, whose spirit is the temple and dwelling-place of the Spirit of God. He knows the thoughts of God, because he has a living union with the eternal Mind. And there is the natural man, possessing merely the intellect and conscience of ordinary humanity.

*~F.B.Meyer*

# **QUOTES**

*The mind of Christ is the mind of God.*

*When we have the mind of Christ, we are in our right mind.*

*The mind of Christ is not merely positive, but it is grounded in the truth.*

*It is possible to have a good heart and poor thinking, this leads to emotional intelligence issues.*

*The current state of your life is the sum of the decisions you have made to date.*

*Most of what we do is the result of being conditioned to believe something.*

*Everyone is governed by something or someone – who is governing you?*

*The world wants to remove the stigma around mental health, but God wants to heal your mind.*

*God wants to give you the mind of Christ not the mind of victimization.*

*A healthy mind is not about positive thinking, it's about being grounded in God's truth.*

*The last two years were not just about covid they were also about conditioning your mind.*

**SATAN’S SPIRITUAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

The enemy of our soul loves to assault our mind with everything at his disposal. But there are some “fiery darts” that he launches at us that are meant to be weapons of mass destruction!

* Rejection
* Discouragement
* Fear
* Betrayal
* Isolation

The devil’s endgame is always to isolate us through lies and deception. Once he gets a grip then he can overcome us, conquer us, and ultimately destroy us or have us destroy ourselves. These battles all begin in the mind.

# **QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**

1. What has God revealed to you about your life and His purposes for you?
2. What types of wisdom has God granted you? How has it impact you?
3. How have you pulled down vain imaginations in your life?
4. What has been the greatest mental health issue or even spiritual battle of your life? How have you overcome?
5. How is Holy Spirit governing your thought life? Provide examples.
6. Discuss the difference between the mind of Christ and the mind of the world.
7. Describe three ways in which the mind of Christ governs your life.
8. How has the mind of Christ impacted your decision-making abilities and your path of life?
9. What does the term, “the mind of Christ is beautiful mean”? How is Christ beautiful? How is holiness beautiful? By contrast, what makes the devil ugly?