



Mind Matters: #4, The Mind of Christ
 Philippians 1:27-2:11
 October 6, 2019

It's difficult for people to get along, and the main reason why is we are all too self-centered. The solution is for us to develop the mind of Christ.

Christ's mind was full of many healthy thoughts, attitudes, and purposes. The one specifically emphasized in Scripture, however, is his attitude of humility, servicing, self-denial, and sacrifice. This led him to forfeit his right of equality with God, and become a human and a servant, and be obedient to God at the cost of being crucified (Philippians 2:5-8).

Because Jesus did this, God exalted him to the highest place, and gave him the supreme name (see also Matthew 28:18; John 13:3; Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 3:22; Revelation 5:12). That calls for worshipping him, as we have done this morning.

Christ marked out a pathway of suffering first and then glory. If we follow him, we too will be glorified (Romans 8:17-18; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; Colossians 3:1-4). But now is the time to serve and sacrifice. The mind of Christ is not merely an noble ideal. We are called to actually "have the same mindset" as him (Philippians 2:5). What does this look like in our relationships?

Backing up in the Philippians, it means not being selfish or conceited but rather humble enough to count others more significant than ourselves and look to their interests and not our own

(2:3-4). It means having the same mind, same love, being in full accord and of one mind (2:2). It means standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel (1:27). When a church has the mind of Christ, their humble self-denial and other-centeredness brings them together as one, focused on the gospel. Significantly, Jesus taught these same attitudes when his disciples were arguing about which of them was the greatest (Mark 9:33-37).

The specific phrase "mind of Christ" also appears in 1 Corinthians 2:16. Paul had the mind of Christ but the Corinthians had their minds set on human interests. An overview of 1 Corinthians provides good practical application for what the mind of Christ should look like in a church setting.

Chpts	Human Interests	Mind of Christ
1-4	I am wise, superior	Cross, humility, of Christ
5	Proud tolerance of sin	Deals helpfully with sin
6	Law suits, "cases"	Rather be wronged
6	Sleep with whoever	Honor God with my body
7	Do whatever I want	Marriage, self-denial
8-10	Insist on one's rights	Forfeit ones rights in love
11	Defiance	Submission
11	Concern for myself	Concern for the body
12-14	Use gift to gratify myself Insist on my own way Edify myself	Use gift to serve others Love Edify and defer to others
15	Question remarkable truths	Life formed by such truths
16	Self-centeredness	Other centeredness in giving, submission, and greetings

Since self-centeredness is what makes it so hard for people to get along, it's not surprising that such a self-indulgent, proud church as Corinth was also so divided. The solution for getting along is to have the mind of Christ among us.

