**The Mind Of Christ**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday July 7th, 2019

Text: Phil 2:3-8

# Intro

1. We must make choices every day.
   1. For a Christian who is to let his/her light shine, our choices are very important
   2. Our example and reputation are necessary to be lights *(Mt. 5:16; Phil. 2:15)*
   3. How do we accomplish this?
   4. How do we make the right choices? (“Walk in newness of life” – Rom. 6:3-13)
2. It comes down to our attitudes:
   1. Phil. 2:3-8: Christ served God while on Earth – He made the right decisions.
   2. Phil. 2:3: “With humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.”
   3. Phil. 2:5: “Have this attitude (NKJ: mind) in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.”
3. Paul sought to get men to bring their thoughts into captivity to Christ (*II Cor. 10:5*)
   1. Prov. 4:23; 23:7: The heart or mind is the “control center” of life and conduct.
   2. Mk. 7:21-23: Jesus declared the power of perverted thought to influence action.
4. If Jesus Christ is the center of our life, then we will truly have the mind (or attitude) of Christ!

I. Christ Had a Loving Mind

1. Phil. 2:6-7: Jesus was rich with God in glory.
   1. II Cor. 8:9: He became poor that we might become rich.
   2. Jn. 1:1-3: He was in the form of God.
   3. Heb. 1:2: With God, Jesus had power and honor.
2. He gave up the honor and glory of heaven for a life of poverty on earth (*II Cor. 8:9*)
   1. Lk. 9:58: How poor was the Lord? No place to call home.
   2. I Tim. 2:6: He gave Himself a ransom for all.
3. Why did He give up His home in Heaven? (What was His motivation?) – ***Love!***
   1. Rom. 8:35-37: “Who will separate us from the love of Christ?” His love allows us to conquer!
   2. Eph. 5:1-2; II Thess. 2:16-17: Christ loved us & gave Himself for us – to comfort and strengthen us! *(Heb. 12:1-3: Joy, Despising the shame, So we do not lose heart!)*
4. **Saints are to be like Christ and “put on” love – Col. 3:14 (Eph. 5:2: “Walk in love”)**
   1. Phil. 2:1-4: Out of love & humility look out for the interests of others, not just your own!
5. We can see the churches in Macedonia (II Cor. 8:1) exhibiting the attitude of Christ:
   1. II Cor. 8:5: We can accomplish much when we give ourselves to the Lord first
   2. The churches of Macedonia were poor but wanted to participate in the giving for the needy saints in Jerusalem *(8:1-4)*
   3. They gave “according to their ability, and beyond their ability” *(8:3)*
6. If you have the attitude of Christ, out of love you will put others first!

II.Christ Had a Humble Mind

1. Phil. 2:8: He “humbled Himself.”
2. **Saints are to have the humility of mind that Christ had! (Col. 3:12: “Put on…humility”)**
   1. Rom. 12:3: One is not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think (Phil. 2:3-4)
   2. I Pet. 5:6-7: Humble-minded people are dependent on the Lord.
   3. Eph. 4:32: Humble-minded people are forgiving.
      1. Christ gave His life to forgive – We are to forgive as He did!
3. Humility is often hard to find in our culture because it is erroneously equated to being weak.
4. Think about Moses in relation to humility:
   1. Num. 12:3: Was Moses weak?
   2. Could a weak man stand up to Pharaoh and not bend to any of the compromises offered?
   3. Could a weak man have stood up to the multitude in the wilderness without giving in?
   4. Could a weak man talk to God and remind Him of His own righteousness? *(Ex. 32:9-14)*
      1. (God wanted Moses to stand aside and let Him destroy the people and make a new nation out of Moses’ seed. Moses interceded on behalf of the people and reminded God of His own promise to Abraham).
5. Think about Jesus in relation to humility:
   1. Heb. 12:2-3: Was Jesus weak?
   2. Would a weak man have gone through with the plan of the crucifixion knowing He could have called more than 12 legions of angels *(1 Legion = Approx. 6,000 troops)* and stopped it? (*Mt. 26:53*)
   3. Could a weak man go through the mock trial and face Pilate saying nothing?
   4. Could a weak man endure the torture and punishment He took without fighting back?
   5. Could a weak man endure the cross for not just His friends, but also His enemies, the very ones putting Him to death? *(Acts 2:23: By the hands of godless men)*
6. Humility is not weakness, it is strength (Strength under control)
7. He gave Himself completely to God’s will.
   1. Jn. 4:34: His “food” was to do God’s will.
   2. Jn. 5:30: He sought not His own will but to do God’s will (In practice – Mt. 26:39)
   3. Jn. 6:38: He came down from heaven to do God’s will, not His own.
8. It takes more strength of character and will to resist those temptations, to do what is right, and to be in subjection, than it does to be rebellious! (Natural and easy to strike back)
9. If you have the attitude of Christ, you will humbly submit to the will of the Lord!

III.Christ Had an Obedient Mind

1. Phil. 2:8: From humility He became “obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”
   1. Heb. 5:8-9: The Lord became obedient in order to save men! (Heb. 2:9)
      1. In His obedience the Jesus learned obedience, i.e. the price of obedience.
      2. Lk. 22:42: Jesus was obedient to God to the degree that He could say “Not My will, but Yours be done.”
2. **Saints are to be obedient as Christ was in order to be saved! (Heb. 5:9)**
3. There is an evident disrespect for authority today:
   1. Eph. 6:1-3: Lack of authority in the home .
      1. Children have an obligation to be obedient to their parents. If not obedient in the home, what chance do they have to be obedient to the civil government, to people they haven’t even met? *(Rom. 1:30; II Tim. 3:2)*
      2. Lk. 2:51: Jesus was obedient to His earthly parents.
   2. *Rom. 13:1-7*: Disrespect for authority seen in rejecting authority of civil government.
      1. *Mt. 22:21:* Attitude of Christ – “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and unto God the things that are God’s.”
      2. Citizens of any country who engage in violent and law-breaking acts to protest their government are not in subjection to authority – Not the mind of Christ!
4. The solution to this problem of rejection of authority is to have the attitude (mind) of Christ!
   1. Phil. 2:5: “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.”
5. If you have the attitude of Christ, you will live a faithful life!

Conclusion

1. Rom. 12:2: In order to have the mind (attitude) of Christ, the mind must be renewed!
   1. We must be walking in newness of life! (Rom. 6:4)
2. I Pet. 3:15: The Lord must be sanctified (set apart) in the heart.
3. *Phil. 2:5*: We will only have the attitude of Christ when we let Him be our example!
4. Will you let Christ be your example in love, humility, and obedience?
5. If not a Christian, you need to be! Repent and be baptized and let Christ be your example!
6. If a Christian struggling with sin in your life, look to Christ and strive to have His attitude in all respects. Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, come forward ***NOW*** while we stand and sing!