

## SIGNS OF A MATURE CHURCH Having the Mind of Christ

Text: I Corinthians 2:6-16

**Key Word:** Mind

**Key Thought:** The Mind of Christ Changes Our Perspective of What Is Important

I've been building each week from what God's Word has told us about Jesus returning to this earth to be presented with . . .

*"a radiant church, without stain (spot) or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."*

*Ephesians 5:27*

**Today I want to speak about our minds.** We casually use a term today, *"I've heard from God."* But what about when two or more mature Christians feel they have the mind of Christ and yet disagree? Can this be of God? **I believe that we are too close to the rapture to NOT have the mind of Christ.** We see our world in total confusion because it is following **"The spirit of Babylon."** I am praying that the Church will rise to its feet by bowing its knees as a mature body directed by the mind of Christ.

*"Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed."*

*I Peter 1:13*

**How Can We Have the Mind of Christ That Is Prepared for Action Prior to the Coming of Our Lord - the Bridegroom?**

**I. THROUGH SUFFERING (I Peter 3:13-18; 4:1)**

**II. THROUGH HUMILITY (Philippians 2:3)**

**III. THROUGH UNITY (Romans 15:5,6)**

**I. THROUGH SUFFERING (I Peter 3:13-18; 4:1)**

The mind of Christ was one that was willing to suffer for the sake of other. If He didn't believe in suffering, He never would have come to earth. **We need to arm ourselves with the attitude of suffering for the cause of Christ because none of us likes to suffer needlessly.**

## I. THROUGH SUFFERING (I Peter 3:13-18; 4:1)(Contd.)

Mark wrote that Jesus began to be . . .

*"deeply distressed and troubled"*

*Mark 14:33*

He quotes Jesus' words to Peter, James and John . . .

*"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death."*

*Mark 14:34*

Jesus separated Himself from His disciples, fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible, to let the hour pass from Him. With deep emotion He said . . .

*"Abba (endearing), Father . . . everything is possible for you, Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*

*Mark 14:36*

If you are wanting to serve Christ, then, be prepared to suffer for Him. **Our carnal nature violently opposes the thought - but it does not have the mind of Christ.**

The sufferings of the bride of Christ are not necessarily due to some sin in our lives. Quite often we suffer BECAUSE we represent Jesus Christ.

*"But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed."*

*I Peter 3:14*

**Isn't it tremendous to know that not even suffering can take away our blessing? Remember, that Peter was writing about suffering unjustly.** I hear believers telling me that living a Christian life is hard. I would agree that it's not an easy ride.

Yet the Bible declares . . .

*"The way of the unfaithful (transgressors - KJV) is hard."*

*Proverbs 13:15*

## I. THROUGH SUFFERING (I Peter 3:13-18; 4:1)(Contd.)

Paul found out . . .

*"it is hard for thee to kick against the  
pricks."*

*Acts 9:5 KJV  
Not in the NIV*

**There is no blessing in suffering against the will of God.** But those who have the mind of Christ will find blessing through suffering.

### 6152 Fearing His Scars

\*\*\* Adoniram Judson, the renowned missionary to Burma, endured untold hardships trying to reach the lost for Christ. For seven heartbreaking years he suffered hunger and deprivation. During this time he was thrown into Ava Prison, and for 17 months was subjected to almost incredible mistreatment.

As a result, for the rest of his life he carried the ugly marks made by the chains and iron shackles which had cruelly bound him. Undaunted, upon his release he asked for permission to enter another province where he might resume preaching the Gospel.

The godless ruler indignantly denied his request, saying,  
***"My people are not fools enough to listen to anything a  
missionary might SAY, but I fear they might be impressed by  
your SCARS and turn to your religion!"*** \*\*\*

Henry G. Bosch

## II. THROUGH HUMILITY (Philippians 2:3)

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit,  
but in humility (lowliness of mind - KJV), consider  
others better than yourselves."*

*Philippians 2:3*

**The mind of Christ is a mind of humility one toward others.** Some may argue that humility is not the action that the Bride of Christ should express. They say, *"hold your head up high, you're a child of the King."*

*"It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is  
humility that marks men as angels."*

St. Augustine

## II. THROUGH HUMILITY (Philippians 2:3)(Contd.)

Humility is a virtue that many of us find hard to bear.

"Many would be scantily clad if clothed in their  
humility"

Anonymous

"After crosses and losses men grow humbler and  
wiser."

Benjamin Franklin

**Humility is the after effect of suffering for those who let it achieve its perfect work.**

The only way to be exalted in the kingdom of God is to humble ourselves before others. **It's dangerous to be great in God's kingdom. Only God is great!**

"I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves

**ONE**

**ABOVE**

**ANOTHER**

and the taller we grow,  
The easier we can reach them.

Now I find that God's gifts  
are on shelves

**ONE**

**BENEATH**

**ANOTHER**

and the lower we stoop,  
The more we get."

F.B. Meyer

**I honestly believe that one of the greatest gifts to receive from God is that of true humility.** A humble person is well on their way to maturity in Christ. Humility will destroy *"selfish ambition and vain conceit."*

*"God opposes (resisteth - KJV) the proud, but  
shows favor to (giveth grace unto) the humble."*

James 4:6

**A person who suffers for the Lord receives God's [Blessing](#) while a humble person receives His [Grace](#).**

## II. THROUGH HUMILITY (Philippians 2:3)(Contd.)

Paul was an apostle who grew in humility in spite of his tremendous sufferings for God. In his farewell speech to the Ephesians at the conclusion of his third missionary journey he said,

*"I served the Lord with great humility and tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews."*

*Acts 20:19*

## III. THROUGH UNITY (Romans 15:5,6)

*"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6. so that with one heart (mind KJV), and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

*Romans 15:5,6*

**The progression from struggle to humility will ultimately bring our minds to a place of unity.** Unity is another important sign of a mature church. **We may exercise all the spiritual gifts available to us and still be immature in our attitude toward others.** Paul was greatly concerned about the divisions at Corinth.

*"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that **ALL OF YOU** agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be **PERFECTLY UNITED IN MIND** and thought."*

*I Corinthians 1:10*

**No church that has divisions and strife can avoid the fact that it is immature. People who break unity are babes in Christ and should never be sought after for their opinion or advice.** The division of the Corinthian church manifested itself by whom they supported. Some followed Paul, others Apollos or Cephas, while the ones that wanted to appear spiritual, said they followed Christ (I Corinthians 1:10-12). **Paul saw it for what it was - - immaturity that brought divisions.** Jesus came to unify His Church.

**Our Bridegroom is returning for one bride - one mature bride - one mature bride without stain (spot) , wrinkle or blemish and living a holy and as blameless a life as possible.**

### III. THROUGH UNITY (Romans 15:5,6)(Contd.)

**\*\*\*** An illustration of the unified bride could perhaps be seen in a symphony orchestra. Prior to the performance time, the musicians tune their instruments in a manner that sounds to the unskilled ear as noise. Everyone seems to be doing their own thing. There is no pleasure in what is heard.

The stringed instruments don't blend with the wind instruments. The percussion seems terribly off beat. The pianist lowers her head to the keyboard to try to hear what she is playing.

Then a man walks confidently to the podium and taps his wand. He takes his place and the performance is about to begin. The hall becomes deadly silent. He raises his arms with the wand in his hand. After several motions to the orchestra, the silence breaks with a melodious sound. It is music to the ears. Can one man bring about such a change simply by the gestures of his hand and face? Yes! **The maestro can.** He is the master who controls the musicians.

Without Christ at the center of His Church, we only produce noise. When He takes His position as Lord, the melodious music begins. **We call it unity.**

**To have the mind of the Maestro, the musicians must undergo tedious years of practice that produces an incredible sound. Although they are very talented, they must humble themselves to the desires of the Maestro. His thoughts so penetrate the musicians that this symphony of sound pleases the audience as they applaud their accomplishments.**

Let us have the mind of Christ and make a unified sound to touch the world we live in. Maturity will not be questioned because of the incredible performance. **The quality of the spiritual harmony that we can develop will remove all doubt as to where we stand with Christ as our LORD and Saviour.**

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Date: Oct 16/22

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Lord Reign in Me - G

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