

Do We Have the Mind of Christ?

[Based on downloads and inspirations received on 18-8-2018]

Paul stated we have the mind of Christ,¹ but do we? Not the way I think. As I observe Christians and listen to what they talk about and I look at their lives and I see where their priorities are, when I look at how much mess they've made of their lives, I really can't say that we all have the mind of Christ. That's a dilemma for us, because if Paul was so emphatic that we do have the mind of Christ, then why isn't it displayed? I believe the answer is simple, but profound.

What's happened in the church is that we've been taught to think like Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah. So we refer to the Gospel records in the Bible and we are told to do what he did, live like he did – i.e. in the way we interact with people. And so we believe that to have the mind of Christ means that we will do the things that he did. So we end up with 2 forks in the church system to satisfy this. We have the evangelicals who are interested in social justice and social impact on the one hand. On the other, we have the Charismatics and Pentecostals who focus on supernatural displays. Both of these are human attempts to mimic Jesus, and yet, even though both forks have righteousness in them, there's a higher way, a higher truth, a higher reality.

We don't have the mind of Christ because we only look at what Jesus did and said. We actually have the mind that thinks the way he thought. This means that what we've been taught to think on good things, nice things, grace, mercy, peace, the fruit of the spirit, and all those type of things. However, all of these are outcomes that should develop from having the right mind. What we've done is impose our standard on what the mind of Christ is like. That's irrelevant in the Kingdom. What matters is the mind of Christ, not what we understand it to be.

So, let's get beyond our religious concept of this and decide, that as Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one, we have access to their mind. How do we get it? It's obvious that we don't have it now, so we need to get it. This is not by our own efforts. I can tell you this is the truth because all you need to do is to analyse what you think about. This is because your mind is categorised by what you think about.

If your thoughts are predominantly about these, you are a natural thinker: your job; money; paying bills; family problems; the price of energy supplies; global warming; difficulties at work; what sport you're going to go and watch on Saturday; what TV programs are exciting tonight; what friends you can visit and gossip with; what new 'toy' you can buy to put in your garage; what promotion you can apply for to increase your income; etc., etc., etc.

If your thoughts are predominantly about these, you are a religious thinker: the church meeting on Sunday; prayer meeting on Friday; bible study on Wednesday; worship time; praying and fasting for revival; morning devotion; the next festival; Israel; protesting at the abortion clinic; running a book stall on Sunday; the next bible prophecy conference; teaching RE at school; praying for overseas missions; listening to Christian radio; etc.

So just consider this: Jesus, the Son, our King, has a mind which is unlike ours and we have this same mind. What does he think about? That's a very important question. Well, he's definitely not contemplating what he can draw from the world system. He's thinking about how he can impact the world from Heaven and expand his Kingdom. He's not religious, he's spiritual. He's not aligned with our culture, but instead, he's focussed on oneness with each of us. See the difference?

In conclusion, our minds are basically carnal², they need a complete overhaul.

[continued in "Renewing Our Minds"³]

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18-8-2018

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1 – 1 Corinthians 2:16

2 – Romans 8:5-7

3 – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Renewing-Our-Minds.pdf