

Having the Mind of Christ

1 Corinthians 2: 6 – 16

1) Wisdom revealed by the Spirit (vs. 6 – 10)

- The message of wisdom is spoken among the mature i.e. someone who has grown in the Lord and is no longer carnal in his thinking and ways.
- This wisdom that is given to us is hidden from those in the world and whose thinking is carnal – still of the flesh, still worldly, still self centred.
- The wisdom of this age and the rulers of this age will come to nothing – will be done away with.
- There is a lot of knowledge in the world today but not much wisdom.
- Proverbs 9: 10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- Many very knowledgeable people in this world do not fear God and thus do not have wisdom as the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- It doesn't matter if men are heads of countries, business corporations or religious organizations, if they do not fear God they have not yet gained true wisdom.
- The rulers of this world did not understand the wisdom of God. It was God's wisdom that sent Jesus to the cross for the salvation of mankind. It was his wisdom to allow the rulers the rulers of this world to carry out His purpose without them realizing it.
- God even uses the wicked to carry out His purposes in this world.
- This is why we need to ask God what He is doing in the world around us. Is God at work where we cannot see Him at work – in circumstances that we can't see that it could possibly be God? If we stood at the cross of Jesus would we have thought at all that this could possibly be the purpose of God – it was sheer cruelty and wickedness to crucify someone?
- God's wisdom in sending Jesus to the cross is not something new. It was destined for our glory before time began. - Rev 3: 8 "All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world"
- God has revealed His wisdom to us by His Spirit.
- Jesus, speaking about the Holy Spirit in John 16: 14 – 15 said, "He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."
- The fullness of the Godhead is making known to us the thinking of God.
- He has made known to us what we would never have known prior to receiving the Holy Spirit – No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived, what God has prepare for those who love him.
- When we live merely by worldly wisdom and not by the wisdom give by the Spirit we are unaware of the glorious riches that God has in store for us.

2) We have received the Spirit who is from God (vs. 11 – 13)

- When we say "The Spirit who is from God" we are talking about a person, not a mere force or some other impersonal entity.
- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune Godhead and is equal to the Father and the Son. They are one in mind and purpose and never conflict in what they are, do or think.
- When we have received the Spirit who is from God we have received God Himself.
- He regenerates our spirits so that we are alive to God – we are aware of the presence and working of God.

- We are aware of God speaking to us and we are aware of the thoughts of God because the Spirit whom we have received makes them known to us.
 - He reveals to us all that God has freely given us – it is one thing knowing what God has given us but when the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see and understand then something new happens in us that changes the way we see things and the way we live.
- 3) The spiritual man has the mind of Christ (vs. 14 – 16)
- The spiritual man is the man who lives by the Spirit and not by the flesh.
 - Many Christians who have received the Holy Spirit suppress the Spirit in their lives and walk according to their carnal understanding of Christian living. Thus many spiritual things are foolishness to such a person.
 - The spiritual man i.e. the person who suppresses his carnal nature to keep in step with the Spirit understands spiritual things. Such a person has his mind controlled by the Spirit and has the mind of Christ.
 - There is a battle going on in the mind – this is where a vast portion of our spiritual battles are fought.
 - It is therefore imperative that we “live by the Spirit, and we will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” (Galatians 5: 16)
 - Having the mind of Christ we will think the thoughts of Christ.
 - When we think something – whether personal or impersonal, about yourself, your work, or about someone else – ask yourself whether this is glorifying to God. If it isn’t then it isn’t of Christ – it isn’t His thoughts – His mind.

A person becomes what he thinks!