

## THE MIND OF CHRIST

### (Philippians 2:5-8)

#### Intro.

1. Have you ever been a part of an organization, group, or team where there was more than one thing being said about the same situation and how things should be handled?
2. When that happens, you see stagnation, confusion, and oftentimes disunity.
3. There needs to be one clear voice coming from leadership and the message from that voice needs to filter down to every member of the organization, group, or team.
4. I read an article about Kirby Smart and how he is the closest coach to Coach Saban.
5. What stuck out to me was in the first three paragraphs:
  - a. In the days after a 40–17 loss at Auburn on Nov. 11, Georgia players heard the same message whether they were eating dinner at their training table, bench-pressing in the weight room or doing homework in study hall. *The season isn't over. All of your goals remain in front of you. Beating Kentucky is all that matters.*
  - b. Second-year coach Kirby Smart and strength coach Scott Sinclair had begun formulating that refrain the night of that loss, the Bulldogs' first of 2017. Smart honed it after he met with his staff. To make sure every athletic department employee who interacted with the players knew what to say, the word went out to all department heads: No one was to dwell on the defeat in the presence of the players.
  - c. Why does Smart care what the person serving chicken breasts or the academic advisor says to his Bulldogs? "What's really been important in the success of the places I've been is that the message came clear and direct and everybody understood that," says Smart.
6. One voice gave one message and it flowed down throughout the whole organization.
7. I thought about that when thinking about Philippians 2:5-8.
8. Last year, our Sunday morning sermons focused on basic doctrinal issues in order to remind us or, if you had never studied those things, teach us what the Bible says about those basic doctrines.
9. This year, I want to focus our Sunday morning sermons on putting those basic doctrines into practice or how those basic doctrines should cause us as Christians to live our daily lives.
10. In order for us to live lives pleasing to God based on the doctrines we discussed, we have to have a clear understanding of the mind of Christ.
11. Men have come along with their versions of what the message from the top is; there is not one clear and direct message that everyone understands.
12. The reason for that is many do not possess the mind of Christ.
  - a. John 9:4.

- b. John 7:16.
  - c. John 14:24.
13. Jesus received one message from the Father and that is the exact message He passed on to the apostles.
14. The apostles took that message and passed it on to those who heard them preach and to those who read their inspired words (John 17:8, 14).
15. Somewhere along the way, the mind of Christ was lost by some that heard or read the message from the top.
16. What we want to do in this sermon is study what Paul was inspired to write about the mind of Christ to gain an understanding of why possessing it is so important to being able to take those doctrines we've studied and put them into practice in our daily lives.

**I. The demand.**

- a. Many times in scripture a demand is made of those who would be God's children that is put in a kinder way.
  - i. Romans 12:1.
  - ii. 2 Corinthians 5:20.
  - iii. Others could be noted.
- b. Philippians 2:5 is a demand put nicely.
- c. We are demanded to have the mind of Christ.
- d. The phrase "Let this mind be" means to be intent to have within us this habit of thought.
  - i. We won't have the mind of Christ without there being intent on our part.
  - ii. Intent is the idea of determining to possess something.
  - iii. In other words, you can't and won't just stumble upon having the mind of Christ.
- e. To meet this demand laid on us by the inspired apostle, you and I have to make the determination that we want to possess it.
- f. The mind of Christ means His way of thinking and acting.
  - i. I mentioned in the introduction what His way of thinking was.
  - ii. He was intent upon delivering the message of God and doing the will of God.
- g. The Holy Spirit is demanding us to have the intent of doing the same thing and thinking the same way.

**II. The description.**

- a. Philippians 2:6 gives us a great description of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Godhead before He came to earth as Jesus the Christ.
- b. He was in the form of God.
  - i. The word for "form" is only found three times in the New Testament and all three times it used of Jesus and two of them are here in Philippians 2.

- ii. According to Vincent's Word Study it "denotes the special or characteristic form or feature of a person or thing".
- iii. His form, in this case, was that of God the Father.
- iv. Thayer wrote that Jesus bore the form "in which he appeared to the inhabitants of heaven".
- v. When the angels saw the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Godhead, it was like seeing the 1<sup>st</sup> Person of the Godhead, God the Father.
- c. The word "being" at the beginning of the phrase looks backward to His time in heaven and indicates that Jesus still possessed His deity when He came to earth.
- d. In other words, this is what Jesus was before and after He came to earth.
- e. The word translated "robbery" is very interesting.
  - i. Robbery really does not do the word justice.
  - ii. It literally means "a thing to be seized upon or to be held fast."
  - iii. The NASB and ESV translated it "a thing to be grasped".
  - iv. The idea is that Jesus did not regard His being in the form of God while in heaven a thing to be held onto over doing the will of the Father.
- f. We see Jesus described as being in the same form as God but not having a desire to hold onto that form if asked not to by the Father.
- g. So what is described for us as we think of having the mind of Christ is a willingness to do whatever is asked by the Father.

### III. The divestment.

- a. Philippians 2:7 begins by saying that Jesus emptied or divested himself.
  - i. Jesus laid aside His equality with the Father in terms of His form.
  - ii. Jesus willingly gave up His position and state of glory.
  - iii. He did not lose His nature, just His appearance.
  - iv. He did not divest Himself of His deity.
- b. Notice that for which He divested Himself.
  - i. He began to wear the form of a servant.
  - ii. This is the word used by the writers of the New Testament to describe themselves as the servants of God.
- c. He passed from the state of heavenly glory to that of men, mere humans.
  - i. He resembled us.
  - ii. When you saw the Christ, you saw someone who looked like those around Him.
  - iii. This, of course, was the problem that many Jews had with believing in Him.
  - iv. Their belief was that the Messiah would be some great looking leader who would rescue them from the Romans and lead them to prominence.
  - v. Jesus did not look or act like what they wanted.
- d. Jesus gave up the splendor of His heavenly majesty to come to this earth in the form of a servant like God wanted.

#### **IV. The debasement.**

- a. Jesus was found to be just like us.
  - i. The word for “fashion” carries the idea of comprising everything in a person which strikes the senses.
  - ii. He was tempted, hurt, loved, ached, angered, and all other things just like us.
  - iii. He looked like, dressed like, talked like, and lived like those around Him.
- b. He debased Himself.
  - i. He made Himself low.
  - ii. No one forced this on Him, not even the Father.
  - iii. This was the Father’s plan, but Jesus went along with it willingly, of His own accord.
- c. This is the idea of became obedient.
  - i. He was submissive.
  - ii. Always doing the will of the Father.
  - iii. Always teaching the words of the Father.
- d. He was so obedient that He even died for the Father.
- e. Not only did He die, He died the death of the cross.
  - i. This was the most inhumane way a person could die at the hands of another.
  - ii. This cruelty was devised by man to be the most brutal way one could be put to death by another.
  - iii. And Jesus willingly debased Himself to accept that death.

#### **Conclusion**

1. There is one message that matters and that is the message of God.
2. Jesus brought that message to the apostles and inspired writers of the New Testament by means of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
3. Man has devised many other versions of the one message.
4. If we are ever going to take the basic doctrines of the scriptures and implement them in our lives, we have to stick to the one message.
5. The only way we will ever do that is by following the demand of the Holy Spirit to have the mind of Christ.
6. His mind was fixed on doing the will of the Father.
7. So much so that He was willing to leave the glory He possessed that is described here for us.
8. Divest Himself of that glory by taking on human form.
9. Then debase Himself by taking on the form of a servant and dying the cruel death of the cross.
10. That is the mind of Christ and that is what we must have: the willingness to do only the will of God and to stay on message and not depart from it.

- 11.** It may be that you have never obeyed the gospel.
- 12.** In the article about the Georgia football team, it was mentioned that there was one message after the loss: *The season isn't over. All of your goals remain in front of you.*
- 13.** They experienced a setback but they did not let themselves lose focus.
- 14.** You and I experience setbacks when we sin.
- 15.** We can't let those moments of weakness cause us to lose focus.
- 16.** We can remember that our goal remains in front of us.
- 17.** Repent of whatever sin we've committed and keep pressing forward striving to have more of the mind of Christ every day.