

Remnant Life Church

January 11, 2026

The Mind of Christ

Part 1

Why They Don't Get It

I Corinthians 2:14-16

We are going to begin a series this morning regarding what Paul describes every believer has...The Mind of Christ

- What can that possibly mean?
- Most of us have either read or heard that phrase before
- But do we know what it means?
- And do we know why it is so important to understand how that impacts my life, how that defines me, and how it separates me from the world?

Over the next several weeks we are going to examine those very questions

- We are going to define and differentiate between a natural or unspiritual person and a spiritual man/woman
- We are going to look at how the Holy Spirit enables the believer to discern spiritual truth
- We will acknowledge and recognize that God's wisdom and His ways are far beyond our thinking
- And finally, how we, as God's children, are invited to think, love and live like Christ every single day

READ – *I Corinthians 2:14-16*

Scripture defines and divides people, at the most basic level, into two classes – the natural or unspiritual and the spiritual

1. A natural person is unregenerated
 - a. What does that word mean?
 - b. It means to not be spiritually reborn
 - i. In the third chapter of I Corinthians, Paul begins to develop and teach the idea of immature Christians as a warning
 1. But prior to that, in what we just read, he first introduces the two types of people in the world – the natural and the spiritual
 2. To Paul, the natural man was one who, because they had not received the Spirit of God into their lives, had their understanding and focus limited to the world's knowledge and understanding
 3. Paul is not saying that at his best the natural man cannot understand the spirit
 4. He is saying that at his best the natural man cannot understand spiritual matters unless the spirit of God helps him
 - ii. Too many in the church today do not believe this to be true
 1. How do we see that?
 2. By those who think, and as a result assume, that all we have to do is tell the story of what God has done in Christ to save mankind

3. The assumption is that people are able to understand the message and receive it
4. Paul is saying that is simply not possible unless the Holy Spirit guides and reveals that truth to them
5. And so just as Christ came as a revelation of God's love, so too the Holy Spirit must come to open our minds and hearts to the truth of the Gospel
6. The bottom line is, the Spirit of God is the only one who can bring a person to the place of conversion and freedom from the natural man

iii. Without Him, that person is only governed by their natural, fleshdriven instincts

1. *2 Peter 2:12 - But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish.*
2. Admittedly those are not very kind words but without Christ, man in no more than a higher level of thinking animal
3. It is the presence of Jesus Christ, in the person of the Holy Spirit, that separates us from the rest of His creation

iv. This unregenerate person, therefore, is governed by the desires of the body, the flesh

1. Have you ever wondered how people can do the things that they do?
2. The evil, the violence, the physical abuse people endure at the hands of another person?
3. That is because the basis of human nature is NOT good
 - a. In spite of what you hear secular humanists says
 - b. In spite of what new-age religion tries to make you believe
 - c. In spite of what the world wants you to believe, at the core of mankind is not good, it is evil
 - d. What is that true?
 - i. *Psalm 51:5 - Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*
 - ii. *Jeremiah 17:9 – The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.*

v. But the fact that the unregenerate person is governed only by their natural instincts helps to answer and explain a question that many Christians continually wrestle with

1. When I talk with my unsaved friends, why do they so many times "refuse" to embrace what I am saying?
2. How can they not understand?
3. I can assure you it is not an unwillingness to understand, it is an inability
 - a. To understand spiritual truth requires a spirit nature

- b. *Col 1:9 - For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives*
 - c. Spiritual blindness is not an IQ problem, it is a nature problem that can only be overcome by the Holy Spirit's presence
- 4. **III:** If you are colorblind, when someone points out something that is red, you are not being stubborn in your not seeing it – you are incapable of seeing it
 - a. You can perfectly describe the color to them
 - b. You can tout or defend the beauty of a perfectly formed, vibrant red rose
 - c. You can give example after example of that color that are as plain as day
 - d. But without the capacity to see it, it will mean nothing
- 5. That is how it is for a person who does not accept the truth of God's Word and presence
 - a. Without the spirit nature, they cannot understand the truth of God
 - b. Spiritual truth and understanding requires spiritual sight
- 6. To understand this reveals two truths for you the believer when you are witnessing to someone
 - a. The first is, you cannot argue or mentally convince someone into becoming a Christian
 - b. Second, only the Holy Spirit can open their minds and hearts through His presence
- vi. **III:** Think of it in this way...if you were to sit in a church one Sunday listening to a preacher who is speaking in Mandarin, unless you know that language, none of the words he is saying are going to make sense.
 - 1. He may be speaking truth – that will not matter
 - 2. He may be quoting Holy Scripture – that will not matter
 - 3. He may be pouring out the very words of Jesus Christ, the risen Son of God – that still will not matter
 - 4. Because, without the Holy Spirit, the meaning of the words is inaccessible.
- vii. The Holy Spirit is the translator of God's truth
 - 1. IOW, your words cannot change the condition of a heart and reach your lost friend
 - 2. The most important thing you can do is to pray for them to have their spiritual eyes opened
 - 3. What is more important for you to do is live the life of a genuine Christian
 - 4. Your actions and the expression of your heart will always speak louder than your words
- viii. Now, I am not saying that you never speak of Jesus to your friends

1. But that conversation is not about how convincing and persuasive you can be
2. It should, however, be about telling them what Jesus has done for you

ix. But a natural person is not going to be brought to a place of conviction and conversion because they do not have the mind of Christ

1. It is the work of the Holy Spirit that will bring them to that place
2. Our role in that is to pray for them without ceasing
3. To be patient when you are with them
4. And to live a life of gratitude that God has opened your eyes to His truth