

Remnant Life Church

February 1, 2026

The Mind of Christ

Part 4

What It Should Look Like

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

We have come to the conclusion to this brief series on having the mind of Christ

- The first week was understanding why those who do not know the Lord do not understand why they have a need for Him in their lives
 - It is because without the Holy Spirit, they cannot understand
 - It takes the Holy Spirit to draw them in
 - We are to pray and live our lives as a witness to them of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ
- The second week was recognizing that having the mind of Christ mean that He is continually working in our lives to know Him better
- Last Sunday, it was how having the mind of Christ means we acknowledge the awesome power of God
 - His power is unfathomable
 - He needs no counsel as He is God from the beginning to the end
 - His power reveals our pride and drives us to humility
 - And then in the understanding of who He is, brings comfort to our hearts and drives away fear

Since we now have a little bit of an idea of what it means to have the Mind of Christ, a final question for us should be, so what does that look like?

- If I have the mind of Christ, how does that translate to my day-to-day life?
 - Consider this statement that we will examine more closely...
 - Believers (that is each of us) with the mind of Christ should think, act, love, and live like Christ
- To desire to live with the mind of Christ does not mean you are now living in perfection with all of your faults suddenly, miraculously gone
 - No – it is an ongoing transformation
 - Paul writes of his own walk with the Lord even as he instructs the earliest Christians
 - He struggles with doing right and avoiding sin
 - **Rom 7:15** - *I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.*
 - His, and our battles, are being fought continually
 - **Gal 5:16-17** - *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.*
 - To live a live with the mind of Christ is like an on-going race

- **I Cor 9:24-25** - *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.*
 - Living with the mind of Christ is a life-long endeavor
 - To ever believe that you have arrived at a spiritual place of maturity is to invite pride to take up residence in your heart
 - The result of that is you become unteachable, you become arrogant, and I can promise that at some point God will bring you to a place of humility
 - You can either humble yourself and fall on the Rock
 - Or the Rock can fall on you

Let's look at just 3 aspects of living with the mind of Christ and, not only what they mean, but what they should look like

1. Your Attitude

- a. What is attitude?
 - i. I don't mean as an action word but as a definition
 - ii. Attitude is, according to Webster - *the particular way a person thinks or feels about something or someone*
 - iii. A secondary definition reads like this - *an attitude of a given kind shown by a person's behavior*
- b. By primary definitions, attitude is both seen and unseen
 - i. It is how a person thinks or feels
 - ii. Those are not tangibly observable
 - iii. You can be feeling and thinking one way, and hide it from others by how you act or what you say
 1. Have you ever done that?
 2. Don't tell me you have never thought an article of clothing someone was wearing was hideous but said, "Don't you look nice today?"
 3. Your true attitude is unseen
 - iv. But the secondary definition is observable, you can see the thought manifest by a person's actions or words
 1. It is an attitude of a given kind shown by a person
 2. If you show it, we can see it!
 3. If that hideous dress, or shirt, or tie makes you wince or burst out in laughter, that is seen – your attitude is clearly known
- c. For a believer, desiring to live with the mind of Christ, what should your attitude be?
 - i. That is a question you can discuss and dissect for hours if not days
 - ii. Instead, is there a blueprint, a list of what our attitude should be?
 1. I am very glad you asked that questions because I just so happened to come up with a list!

2. *Love, joy, gentleness, patient self-control, kindness, morality, peace and faithfulness*
3. Wait a minute!
 - a. You mean that is supposed to be what I am thinking when I am witnessing all of the terrible things that are going on around me?
 - b. Those things are to be at the heart of my feelings?
4. That is exactly what you should be thinking and feeling if you are going to live with the mind of Christ
5. Well okay, you might say! But how did you come up with that list?
 - a. I didn't
 - b. Someone else did, a missionary and author
 - c. His name was Paul
 - d. And these are the Fruits of the Spirit found in **Galatians 5:22-23**
 - e. Not in the exact order and with a few synonyms used...
- iii. And please notice the very first one on the list – love
 1. Your thinking, your feelings, which then lead to your words and your actions should always be centered around and bathed in love
 2. I did not say this would be easy, but it is the starting point of living with the mind of Christ, sent by God, who is love!
- iv. Your attitude about everything that is going on around you, about every person you encounter, is at the foundation of your being able to live with the mind of Christ

2. Your Values

- a. Why are your values an important component in order for you to have the mind of Christ?
 - i. Because values determine what you think about, how you act, even what you expect to get out of life.
 - ii. Then, the way you prioritize your values determines your character – and others know who you are and will identify you by your character.
- b. What is it that shapes and helps to develop your values?
 - i. Do you get to suddenly flip a switch and say, These are now my values?
 - ii. Or, like your attitudes, do they develop over time and become a part of you through how you live?
- c. Once again, we come back to the Word of God as our guide
 - i. **I Cor 13:13** gives us the foundational values of Christianity and therefore the path for our own values to be established
 - ii. *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*
 1. Faith – it begins with the connection between God and man
 - a. It is through faith in God's promise and gift of His Son that we are given the correction for the sin in our lives

- b. That correction changes our values from those centered on the flesh and the world to the spirit and the eternal things of God's kingdom
 - c. **Heb 11:6** tells us, *Without faith it is impossible to please God*
 - d. Faith is what sets our values on the right path
2. Hope – as you have heard me say many times, for the Christian hope is not wishful thinking it is confident expectation
- a. My expectations are not based on who I believe I am, but in who I know God is
 - b. I expect the blessings of God in my life because I know that is what God wants for me
 - i. The second part of **John 10:10** tells us that God sent His Son, ...*that we may have life, and have it to the full.*
 - ii. Watch this – having life to the full does not mean that you have a credit card with no spending limit to get whatever you want in life
 - iii. There are those preachers who teach this to their congregations – but that is not true nor is it in the Bible
 - iv. To have life to the full means that we experience the fullness of God's presence and the blessing of His love in our lives
 - c. But His blessings are also a part of our physical world
 - i. You may see this as a the glass half full or half empty
 - ii. I want my glass to be filled to the top with the presence of God so that whatever happens I know that it is a blessing
3. Faith, hope and then love
- a. Paul says that the greatest of these is love
 - b. Why is love the greatest?
 - i. Because when we see God face to face, there will be no more need for faith because we will see Him as He is.
 - ii. And why would we need to hope for something we now have right in front of us?
 - iii. When we stand before the Father, faith and hope will be no more – but love, God's love, abides forever.
 - c. My values – the things that are most important to me – are not shaped by my desires but by His desires, His will for my life

- i. And that will can be seen clearest when we live with faith, hope, and love

The mind of Christ in your life can be seen through your attitudes, your values, and finally...

3. Your Obedience

- a. This focus on this word has changed dramatically in recent years
 - i. There was a time when it focused on the one asked to be obedient
 1. It might be at work (be on time, get the job done right, get along with your coworkers...)
 2. It might be in another setting with rules and regulations that require you follow them closely
 3. But the focus was positive as it was on the one who was willing to do what was right and expected of them
 - ii. Now, the focus is more often on the one making the rules and it is negative because who is that person to tell another person what they can and cannot do?
 1. It would seem that the owner of the company can no longer tell his employees what they can and cannot do
 - a. I have to be at the office at 8:00? In the morning?!
 2. You are seeing this more and more in professional sports where the stars of the league are now telling the owners what they can and cannot do
 - iii. The word obedience is now restrictive, unfair, and demeaning
 1. But not in the kingdom of God
 2. To be obedient to the Word of God is to act and live in the wisest way a person can
 - a. How do I know that?
 - b. Because of the emphasis the Bible places on it
 - c. The words obey, obeyed, obeying, obeys, and obedience appear 312 times in the NIV version
- b. Living in Obedience will mean remembering God's expectations for us are much higher.
 - i. To live in obedience means that the world's standards are not the same as God's
 - ii. As Christians, I don't think we should ever settle for good enough in the way we treat others, the way we respond to situations, or the way we act
 - iii. Jesus said in **John 13:34-35** - *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*
- c. Living in Obedience to the Word will mean seeing obedience as more attractive than sin.
 - i. This is much, much harder than we want to think it is
 - ii. Primarily because satan is crafty

1. He is a deceiver
 2. He is a liar
 3. He is the twisted perversion of everything that it means to live with the mind of Christ
- iii. To see obedience as more attractive than sin is not a condition of your will and determination – it is a condition of your heart
1. And for your heart to be in that place means it has been fully surrendered to God
 2. When temptation comes – not if but when – you do not set your jaw firmly and begin to battle it
 3. No – you go immediately to God and surrender it and yourself to Him
 4. Jesus said in **Luke 10:19** - *I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions (representations of sin and evil) and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.*
 5. Then Paul writes in **Rom 12:21** - *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*
 6. **Heb 11:25** tells us that *the pleasures of sin are fleeting* – meaning only for a brief – but the consequences can often be crippling
- d. Living in Obedience to the Word will mean forsaking excuses.
- i. George Washington Carver was quoted as saying, *99% of failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses.*
 - ii. Excuse making is a spoiled child and the parents are pride and selfishness
 1. Pride because I don't want for others to think that a failure is my fault
 2. Selfishness because I have then have no concern or care for others who may be suffering in some way because I failed
 - iii. I have come to believe that the ability to, in humility, own up to your failures, is a strong sign of Christian maturity

As a child of God we have been given the mind of Christ!

- But what does that look like?
- How can someone tangibly know and see those qualities in my life?
 - It starts with your attitudes
 - It is obvious in your values
 - And it is lived every day in your obedience to the Word of God

It is a life-long endeavor, a marathon, a long-distance journey that you are on for the whole of your life on earth

- But it is worth the effort
- Because it is a demonstration of your life in worship of our great and almighty God!
- It is your living sacrifice to seek His presence in such a way that others will clearly see

The world says: *Think for yourself*

The Bible says: *Let Christ renew your mind*

We don't lose ourselves when we receive the mind of Christ; we finally become who we were meant to be.