

Kingdom Identity: I have the Mind of Christ

Your mind is one of your greatest assets. It's important to get your mind working for you.

1. What is the mind?

noús (a masculine noun) – the God-given capacity of each person to think (reason); the mind; mental capacity to exercise reflective thinking. For the believer, 3563 (noús) is the organ of receiving God's thoughts, through faith.

2. Why is it important for us to have the mind of Christ?

People don't like to admit that they don't have the mind of Christ on certain matters. The reality is that unless you were intentionally disciplined in a particular area your default tends to be what the world does around you.

We react and respond to things based on the state of our minds. If I believe that I am fearfully and wonderfully made, when someone insults my looks the result is that I feel sorry for them. I cry out to God for mercy on their behalf. What they say to me does not hurt me because I know that they don't define me. This is because of the state of my mind with regards to that matter. When you know that your school team is the best in the league and others are jealous, you are not hurt when people tease you about your team. You know that it is just talk.

Your mental state affects the meaning you attach to life events at any given moment.

The thing that destroys us is how we interpret events and what occurs when we rehearse that interpretation.

We acknowledge the otherness of God, but are also grateful that He gives us access to His mind. Look at the difference between the Old Testament and the New.

Is 55:8-9

⁸ *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.* ⁹ *"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

1 Cor 2:16

"Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Jesus wants us to be like Him. Jesus wants us to do what He did. In order for this to happen, we must have His mind.

He alludes to this when He says that we must serve as he has served. In Phil 2 we are encouraged to have the same mind as Christ, seen in His self-emptying. If you want to be like someone you need their Central Processing Unit. You need their mind.

When we all think like Jesus it produces peace and harmony in the Body of Christ. The result of such unity is immense power. In the early church it was like this. They were not having big debates about Jesus' character or teachings because they had witnessed these things first-hand.

Acts 4:32

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

2 Cor 13:11

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

We can only be of one mind if we all walk in the mind of Christ.

When people in the world wonder what Jesus would have done, they should be able to just look at us. Why? Because we have the mind of Christ.

Do you know the mind of Christ with regards to contemporary issues: women, marriage, money, abortion, the poor, the health care system, sickness and disease etc Study the Gospels, because it is not always what we naturally think. Do you know the mind of Christ concerning yourself? Let me give you an example:

1 Sam 15:29

He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind."

We see from this scripture that God does not change His mind concerning you. He doesn't change His mind concerning your calling and purpose. This is a very powerful thought when you meditate on it. Jesus is not double-minded about you.

Rom 11:29

for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

NLT - *For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.*

3. What are the implications of having the mind of Christ?

- I have the motivation of Christ
- I carry the burdens of Christ
- I have the perception of Christ
- I have the understanding of Christ

So I see the big picture

I understand where people are coming from and don't take everything personally

I can say with Christ, "Father forgive them for they don't know what they are doing."

- I see what the Father is doing

I mind is set on what Jesus' mind is set on. This means we share the same priorities.

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

NLT - *You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!*

When you fix your thoughts on God, the result is perfect peace. If you are not experiencing peace in your life, re-examine your mind. On what have you fixed your thoughts?

- I have the attitude of Christ

This is the word *phroneo* which speaks of setting or directing your mind. In Phil 2:5 we are encouraged to have the same mindset or attitude as Christ.

4. How do we fully walk in mind of Christ

1). Allow God to examine your mind

Ps 26:2

Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;

Do you have the mind of Christ or the mind of your professor, your father, your political party? Let your mind be open to examination. After any examination there must be an assessment. Sometimes we are examined but the report goes missing (e.g. Chemical organisation conducting an examination of contamination but hiding the report).

2). Commit to Love the Lord with all Your Mind

Mt 22:37

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

All my thoughts must glorify God.

Loving the Lord with all my mind entails having a willing mind

1 Chron 28:9

“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

How willing is your mind? Willingness of mind is one of the key attributes God looks for when He selects and promotes.

A willing mind results in malleability. This makes you easy for god to work with.

3). Practise Mind-share audits

Phil 3:19

Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

Romans 8:7

The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.

What is governing your mind, the flesh or the Spirit?

What is my mind set on? (default thoughts)

Conduct regular emotional activity logs (How was I feeling in the last 30 minutes? What is the message from that emotion? What does that say about the state of my mind?)

How was my mind contaminated today?

What lies am I carrying in my mind today? (Lies about self, others, God, and how the world works). This is how the enemy takes us captive.

What truths can I use to displace the lies with?

How has my mind affected my emotional state today?

4). Actively Renew Your Mind

Rom 12:2a

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

It’s important to know what the world’s pattern is so that we can avoid it. The world has a pattern for everything. It has a pattern for relationships, marriage, business etc. Many Christians are ignorant of the fact that God has a pattern in all these areas of life so they go with the default that they were first exposed to. You hear of Christians saying that they were never taught how to be a husband or wife and as a result they have been doing what they observed growing up without questioning it. It’s also important to internalize God’s Words about yourself and His Kingdom principles.

Ps 119:11

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.