

## **We Desperately Need the Mind (Processing System) of Christ**

Mathew 22:37; Romans 12:2; Philippians 2:5  
Steve Moore (Wycliffe Bible Translators)

Exercise:

- Smell
- Sight
- Hearing
- Taste
- Touch

**We can't NOT process information**

- Pre-judice
- Discernment
- Post-judice

**What is our reason for being? Why are we on this earth?**

**Scripture passages:**

- Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."  
Mathew 22:37-40
- Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2
- In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had. Philippians 2:5 (Today's New International Version)

### What is the mind of Christ?

#### From the Kenosis-God becoming man -- Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)

*For a higher cause, Jesus ...*

- Humbled Himself
- Was obedient to death
- Gave up His status
- Identified with those around Him

*Fixed on the moment, we humans tend to ...*

- Hang on to our status
- Demand others identify with us
- Be arrogant, exalt ourselves
- Run from (avoid) distress

### What is the mind of Christ?

#### From Jesus' responses to devil's temptations -- Matthew 4:1-11

The devil's temptations (which he throws at us constantly) can be summarized as:

Focus on the moment, be consumed by the material, be preoccupied about the here and now; make sure you take care of yourself, your reputation; and go ahead, test God

Jesus answered

- "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
- "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
- "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

**A fourth temptation** When Jesus predicts his suffering and death, Satan (through Peter) protests (nah, stop talking like that, take care of yourself, focus on the here and now)

And Jesus replies angrily:

- "Get behind me, Satan! ...You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." (Mark 8:31-38)

### What is the mind of Christ?

#### From The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector -- Luke 18:9-14

This Pharisee was an upright, praiseworthy person. Yet Jesus demotes and downgrades him for he was full of himself, holier than thou; he looked down on those who were not like him, turned his nose up at those who did not agree with him; scorned and derided those who did not value what he valued.

Yet Jesus says the tax collector was justified before God because he was humble, he was repentant and he longed for God.

### How do we attain the mind of Christ? How do we become like Christ... filled by the Holy Spirit?

These are dangerous questions. Are we to "do" or "be"? How to avoid being a Pharisee in the process?

- Pray, fast, study God's word; be part of a body for worship, confession and more (don't do faith alone)
- Live continually in the presence of God. Do everything for "the audience of One" (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- Ask the Holy Spirit to teach, guide, care, and comfort you, as well as take your blinders off and let you see...
- Allow yourself to be shaped by trials (James 1:2-4)
- Conquer pride, but do so humbly (go to the cross and look at others from that vantage point)
- Relish (bathe, steep, get stuck in) Gospel truths

(For more suggestions go to:

[http://renovare.org/invitation\\_becoming\\_like\\_christ\\_rjf.htm](http://renovare.org/invitation_becoming_like_christ_rjf.htm))