

THE MIND  
OF  
CHRIST

*T. W. Hunt & Claude King*

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Rembrandt was naturally attracted to the figure and personality of Jesus; he had a genuine love for the Bible. Rembrandt painted a number of versions of Christ. The one used on the cover, titled *Head of Christ*, portrays Jesus as one whose face reveals intelligence as well as innocent concern. This is a rendition of the private Jesus. He is about to speak but not to multitudes of people. Instead, Jesus' quiet words will be heard only by the listener close by. May that be so for you as you seek the mind of Christ.

*Head of Christ*, Rembrandt Van Rijn, Dutch, 1606–69  
Gemäldegalerie, Berlin-Dahlem, oil on wood panel, 10 x 12"

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# THE MIND OF CHRIST

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# THE MIND OF CHRIST

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## ABOUT THE WRITERS



T. W. Hunt

For seven years prior to his retirement, T. W. Hunt served as the prayer specialist in the Adult Discipleship and Family Department at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tennessee. Before coming to this position, he was a professor of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, for 24 years. T. W. is the author of *Disciple's Prayer Life: Walking in Fellowship with God* (with Catherine Walker), *From Heaven's View* (with his daughter, Melana Hunt Monroe), *Growing Disciples: Pray in Faith* (with Claude King), *The Life-Changing Power of Prayer*, and *Music in Missions: Discipling Through Music*. He has written numerous articles for a variety of periodicals. A native of Arkansas, T. W. graduated from Ouachita Baptist College and received the master-of-music and doctor-of-philosophy degrees from North Texas State University. He lives in Spring, Texas.



Claude King

Claude King is a discipleship specialist at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tennessee. In addition to this course, Claude worked with T. W. to develop *Growing Disciples: Pray in Faith*. He is the coauthor of other books and courses, including *Experiencing God*, *Fresh Encounter*, and *Concentric Circles of Concern*. His most recent books include *Come to the Lord's Table* and *Growing Disciples: The Call to Follow Christ*. Claude is a graduate of Belmont College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He lives in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

# THE MIND OF CHRIST

## PREFACE

To be like Jesus! That is why God created us: “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29). God is in the process of “bringing many sons unto glory” (Heb. 2:10). The glory we are to have is the glory of being like God’s perfect Son, Jesus Christ. This course is about learning to think the thoughts of Christ—to have the mind of Christ. It is based on the magnificent challenge in Philippians 2:5-11 which begins, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5).

You may ask, “Isn’t it presumptuous to speak on the mind of Christ?” That is exactly what I thought! I have always been overwhelmed with my unworthiness to deal with such an imposing topic. The only answer I have to that question is that, for some reason in His grace, God chose to arouse my interest and to answer my questions.

### The Purpose of This Course

This course is not a biography of Christ. Large numbers of biographies already exist. The presentation is more topical than chronological. I generally follow the order of the concepts in Philippians 2:5-11. This course is intended to be practical and not theoretical. It should be studied with a view to immediate application.

You cannot study this course, however, apart from the help of the Holy Spirit. As Claude and I wrote it, we did not write a line without the Holy Spirit’s help. We preceded every writing period with a prayer in which we pleaded that the Holy Spirit would direct the writing to reflect what God wants His body to know about the mind of Christ. Prayer warriors and prayer ministries across the country undergirded this writing. I beg you to breathe a prayer every time you begin to study a portion of this course.

My understanding of these concepts was forged in the furnace of real life. Shortly after beginning to teach this message publicly, God impressed me that I should never teach an insight I had not applied to my own life and observed in practice. Because of these factors, I have written some portions of this course autobiographically.

I hardly could have done it any other way and remained faithful to the original calling and receiving of the message. I know from experience that application works. I also want you to know it, and I hope you will prove its validity by your own application.

No study can contain the whole of the mind of Christ. That is an impossibility because His mind is infinite. This course is intended to be suggestive and helpful but not exhaustive. It may initiate in your mind some topics you have not thought of. It may suggest others that I have not thought of. Those tangents may be the Holy Spirit taking you on a learning adventure all your own. I hope you will follow up on those other tangents as the Holy Spirit works to develop the mind of Christ in you.

### Writing Preferences

For the most part, footnotes have been kept to a minimum. Occasionally, I have used parentheses to avoid a footnote. I have followed this procedure in the hope that it would make for easier study. The footnotes I have included are intended to help you investigate intriguing matters further.

Scripture quotations are usually arranged in biblical order. In a few cases I placed them in chronological order as they occurred in Christ’s life. I have attempted to give as much Scripture as possible so that it will be readily available for your study. In cases where the text is not included, I have tried to give you references for your personal study.

I have preferred traditional terminology rather than a more sophisticated choice of words. For example, for the three cases in which Jesus restored a person to life, I have called them a *resurrection*. Some people prefer to reserve the term *resurrection* for Christ’s conquering of death and to use the term *resuscitation* for the restoration of life to the widow of Nain’s son, Jairus’s daughter, and Lazarus, since they died normal deaths. However, the three were dead, and I have used *resurrection* to clarify the message.

Often I have used the masculine gender to refer to all of humanity, but I have tried to include both genders

in the sections on the humanity of Christ. Simplicity sometimes indicated a masculine use to include all humanity. The Scriptures frequently do this. I have a profound respect for womanhood. I emphatically intend to include all women believers in the teaching.

Several of the virtues, such as purity, had to be treated from various viewpoints in different units. This gives a multifaceted view of these virtues, like that of a diamond. Different contexts required another look at the virtues to serve the purpose of that context. Repetition should help you in the process of application.

### **Crucifixion and Resurrection**

During the years that I have taught *The Mind of Christ* publicly, I have always included a narration of the crucifixion and the resurrection. The cross, more than anything else in Christ's life, presents the totality of His mind—His humility, His self-control, His servanthood, His faith. All that is Christ. We cannot comprehend God until we understand the dread cost of the cross. We must also look at the cross to know the bottomless depths of God's love. The glory of the cross would also be meaningless without the inseparable victory of the resurrection. We decided to include these two presentations as worship videos rather than in this interactive text format. I have made suggestions at the end of units 11 and 12 for the use of these two presentations, which are included on the DVDs in *The Mind of Christ Leader Kit*.

### **My Personal Convictions About Christ**

You might want to know my personal convictions about Christ. I simply say that He is fully God and fully man. He is the only begotten Son of God, which means He is of the same essence as God the Father. Christ is also the second Person of the holy Trinity. He was born of a virgin; lived a sinless, perfect life; died a sacrificial, substitutionary death for the sins of all who accept Him; and conquered death through the resurrection of His physical body. He is my personal Savior and the absolute Lord of my life—my every thought, my actions, my emotions, and my will. Christ is the Head of the church. Every Christian believer should submit to His lordship.

I have vivid memories of the criticisms of the Jesus Movement in the early 1970s. Certain persons who were antagonistic to the movement said it centered too much on the second Person of the Trinity, Jesus. The same criticism could be made about this course. My only answer is that we must be faithful to God's method of self-revelation. Any service to Him must be faithful to the patterns and procedures He establishes. God revealed and explained Himself by Jesus Christ. God chose that method. Knowing the Lord Jesus, we know God the Father and the Spirit, and we cannot know Jesus or the Father without the Spirit. The Spirit's job is to testify about Jesus and to glorify Him (see John 15:26; 16:14). God has many means of self-revelation, but His primary vehicle in history is the incarnation.

### **My Prayer for You**

I sincerely hope this course will suggest further studies to you. Ask God to help you study this course in His Spirit, and His Spirit will open up new worlds to you. My prayers are with you as you open-mindedly try to master the insights and concepts in this course.

*Holy Father, exalt Your gracious Son to the one who studies this course. May Christ—and only Christ—be glorified as my friend reads and studies. I ask You to do this because You have given us the infinite worth of Jesus' name in which to offer our prayers. Through His Spirit, for His sake, and in His name I pray. Amen.*

T. W. HUNT  
Nashville, Tennessee  
January 1994

# THE MIND OF CHRIST

## INTRODUCTION

### Overview of *The Mind of Christ*

Paul said, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). This course was written to help you keep that command. In Luke 17:21 Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is within you.” Jesus emphasized that the kingdom of God does not come with outward observance but by an inner working that is not seen. That directs us to the mind, the area where God wants to work. The changes He brings in your life are secret and inward, but they will bear fruit that will be visible in your life and lifestyle.

Moving toward that end, we will look at a poem in Philippians 2:5-11. This poem was actually a hymn that was probably sung during times of worship in the early church. I have divided the hymn into six parts for your study.

### PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

#### Part 1 Christ’s Freedom

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (v. 5).

#### Part 2 Christ’s Lifestyle

“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God” (v. 6).

#### Part 3 Christ’s Servanthood

“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant” (v. 7).

#### Part 4 Christ’s Humanity

“And was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man” (vv. 7-8).

#### Part 5 Christ’s Holiness and Love

“He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (v. 8).

#### Part 6 Christ’s Name

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth: and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (vv. 9-11).

As we look at each part of this hymn, I will help you understand how God wants to work in you to transform you into the image of His Son, Jesus.

- Unit 1 will introduce you to a three-stage process through which God will guide you. You will see what the Christlike mind is like.
- God will begin His work by setting you free from the bondage of sin (units 2–3).
- In units 4–5 we will look at 17 virtues of the mind of Christ. God will work to develop those virtues in your life.
- Unit 6 will help you understand the importance of servanthood, following the example of Christ. God will work to develop the characteristics of servanthood in your life.
- Units 7–10 will help you focus on Christ’s humanity. His earthly life is the perfect example of what God intended humanity to be. In these units we will study the Beatitudes, emotions, relationships with things and people, and living in the Spirit. God will work to purify your mind and life to reflect the perfect humanity of Christ.
- Unit 11 will examine how love and holiness work together to enhance each other. God will work to make you holy and to teach you to love with Christlike love.
- The final unit (12) will reach the height of the hymn as we examine how God has exalted Christ through His names. You will be challenged to bow your knees by surrendering to the absolute lordship of Christ in your life.


This 12-unit study will serve as an introduction to a lifelong process for you as God continually renews your mind and life to reflect the image of His Son, Jesus.

### Studying *The Mind of Christ*

This book is different from most books. It is not designed for you to sit down and read from cover to cover. *The Mind of Christ* (Broadman & Holman) book takes that approach. In this approach we want you to study, understand, and apply these biblical principles to your life. These challenging goals take time, and many people desire a personal guide or tutor to help them through the process. Claude and I have written this workbook to be your personal tutors.

To get the most from this course, study only one daily lesson at a time. Do not try to study several lessons in a single day. You need time to let these thoughts sink into your understanding and practice. You want to experience a person, Jesus Christ. You want to develop His way of thinking and His way of living. Time and meditation are necessary to allow the Holy Spirit to make this renewal process real in your life.

Please do not skip any of the learning activities. They are designed to help you learn and apply these truths to your life. They will help you establish a personal, daily walk with Christ. Many activities will lead you to interact with God through prayer, meditation, and Bible study. If you leave out these activities, you may miss an encounter with God that could radically change your life. You will learn that your love relationship with God is the most important part of your spiritual life. Without an intimate relationship with God, you will miss what He wants to do in and through your life.

 **1. The activities will begin (like this paragraph) with a flourish next to indented type. Follow the instructions given. After you have completed the activity, you will return to the content.**

Answers might be given following the activity so that you can check your work. Write your answer before reading ours. Sometimes your response to the activity will be your own opinion, and no right or wrong answer can be given. If you have difficulty with an activity or if you question the answers given, write a note in the margin. Discuss this concern with your leader or small group.

### Memorizing Scripture

One aspect of gaining the mind of Christ is implanting God's Word deeply in your mind. Memorizing Scripture is an important discipline you will be called on to use in your study. Use the cards at the back of this book to help you memorize the key passages in *The Mind of Christ*. Also consider the following ideas to help you memorize Scripture.

1. Read the verse and think about the meaning.
2. Write the verse on index cards, one phrase per line.
3. Glance at the first phrase and say it aloud. Glance at the next phrase and say both phrases aloud. Continue this process until you have said the whole verse.
4. Try to say the verse from memory later in the day. If you cannot remember the complete verse, glance at the cards to refresh your memory.
5. Repeat the verse several times each day for a week or until you feel the verse is firmly implanted in your mind. Then review verses regularly.

### Lifelong Helps

You will not finish this course in 13 weeks. This course is just an introduction to a lifelong process of allowing God to mold and shape your life into the image of Christ. That process will never be finished this side of heaven. You will always need God's renewal process in your mind and in your life. Let God work with you day by day.

We have provided tools to help you in this lifelong process. The pages (pp. 224–59) and cards at the back of this book will help you regularly examine your mind and your life. In that process God will reveal things that should be removed from your life, and He will transform your thinking and your lifestyle to reflect Christ. The following three months will be your introduction to a lifelong process of becoming like Jesus.

### Small-Group Sessions

Once each week you should attend a small-group session in which you will discuss the content you studied the previous week, share insights and testimonies, encourage one another, and pray together. You will miss much of the intended learning if you do not participate in a small-group study. Small groups should not have more than 10 members for maximum effectiveness. Larger groups will experience less closeness, less intimate

sharing, more absenteeism, and more dropouts. If more than 10 people want to study the course, enlist additional leaders for each group of 6 to 10.

If you have started studying *The Mind of Christ* and you are not involved in a small group, enlist a few friends to study the course with you. You will discover that other members of the body of Christ can help you more fully know and understand God's work in your life. The small group becomes a place where you can practice Hebrews 10:23-25:

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near (NASB).

God intended for members of the body of Christ to help one another, stimulate one another to love and good deeds, and encourage one another. Don't try to develop the mind of Christ alone. Let the body of Christ help you in this process.

### **Seven Segments for Each Group Session**

Each group session is divided into seven segments. The following segment descriptions will give you an overview of the process suggested for each session. The purpose is to help you practice being the body of Christ.

**1. Hearing what the Spirit is saying.** "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Rev. 2:11). As you arrive before the session, review what God has been saying to you during the week. You will identify a Scripture and a name of Christ that have been most meaningful this week. You will identify and mark the issue or subject in which God seems to be working most actively to develop Christ's mind in you. You will use these bits of information at various points in the session. This is a standard part of each session, so you may want to watch for these items as you study each week.

**2. Magnifying the Lord and exalting His name.** "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together" (Ps. 34:3). As you open each session

in prayer, you will worship God for who He is and acknowledge Him for what He has done. You may use the names of Christ to exalt His name together in prayer. Following the prayer time, you will have a chance to share any ways God may have revealed Himself this week through His names.

**3. Transforming by the Word.** "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25-27). Because the Scriptures reveal the nature, character, and standard for the mind and lifestyle of Christ, you will work with others to make two lists each week: (1) things, actions, or attitudes identified in Scripture that need to be cleansed from a person's mind and life and (2) things, actions, or attitudes that Scripture indicates need to be incorporated into a person's mind and life. This is a standard activity each week, so you may want to watch for these items to remove and add to your life as you study each unit.

**4. Stimulating one another to love and good deeds.** "Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds" (Heb. 10:24, NASB). Because God did not intend for Christians to live their lives independently from the rest of the body, He made us dependent on one another. You will help one another apply the truths of the Scriptures and the model of Christ to your own lives. This will be a time for discussion, testimony, encouragement, challenge, and accountability as you help one another respond to God's renewing process in your minds and lives.

Some people are far better at helping others than they are at receiving help themselves. For the body of Christ to function effectively, members need to learn to do both. Be willing to receive help when you need it. Also keep in mind this is not to be a time for self-righteous people to fix everybody else. It is a time for humble servants to give and receive spiritual insights.

**5. Preparing the bride for her Bridegroom.** "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine

linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb” (Rev. 19:7-9). As the marriage of Christ and His bride (the church) draws near, the bride must make herself ready. Christian churches must cleanse and purify themselves so that they will be pleasing and acceptable to the Bridegroom. In each session a Scripture will be examined that will help the bride prepare herself. You will discuss and apply the Scripture to your lives, families, and church.

**6. Praying for one another.** “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (Jas. 5:16). Because God intends for a church to be a house of prayer (see Luke 19:46), you will have an opportunity in each session to share with one another in prayer. This will be an opportunity to share prayer requests for spiritual concerns and to confess faults, weaknesses, sins, struggles, and failures. But it will also be a time to fervently pray for one another’s forgiveness, healing, encouragement, guidance, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, courage, strength, and faithfulness.

### *The Mind of Christ* Family

The following resources support this study.


- *The Mind of Christ* member book (item 005173965) provides content, daily learning activities, and session plans for 13 group sessions.
- *The Mind of Christ Leader Kit* (item 005156923) provides a copy of this member book for use in a 13-session group study, a viewer guide, and four DVDs featuring author T. W. Hunt for use in an 8-session DVD conference.
- *The Mind of Christ Viewer Guide* (item 005174508) provides charts, diagrams, pages for participants to take notes on the DVDs, and small-group discussion guides for 8 sessions.
- *The Mind of Christ* hardback book (B&H Publishing Group, item 001069699) is a book version of *The Mind of Christ*.


You will find ordering information on page 260.


### Learning Approaches

These resources provide three approaches for studying this message. You may want to consider participating in more than one approach as you allow God to continue

this lifelong process of conforming you to the image of Christ Jesus, His Son.

 **1. Individual study.** Individuals can study any of the resources at their own pace. They can either (1) read the B&H hardback book, (2) watch the DVD messages and use the viewer guide, or (3) study this member book. Making the resources available in the church library and/or for sale to members will encourage individual study. Recommend that individuals consider participating in a group study to benefit from the encouragement of and interaction with other believers.

 **2. DVD conference.** For years T. W. Hunt has led weekend conferences on *The Mind of Christ* in churches across the country. Now you can have Dr. Hunt in your church leading the conference through DVD messages. You are not limited, however, by his schedule and availability. You can conduct the conference on a weekend, on weekdays, or on weeknights; spread it over eight weeks; or do all of the above! Let Dr. Hunt do the teaching and preaching on the DVD messages during evening worship services as participants complete the viewer guide. Many people have found that one time through this study is not enough, so you can repeat the conference as often as you choose at your convenience. Members who miss a session can make it up by checking out the DVDs for home viewing or by downloading the messages from [www.lifeway.com/themindofchrist](http://www.lifeway.com/themindofchrist). The DVD conference will require at least eight 75-minute sessions if you include time for discussing the messages. Group members can help one another make application to their lives.

 **3. Combination of individual and small-group study.** *The Mind of Christ* member book provides reading material and learning activities for daily, individual study, plus guidance for a small-group session each week for 13 weeks. This combination of in-depth study and small-group interaction will enhance learning and contribute to greater application of the material. With this approach you will need a small group for each 8 to 10 participants. If more than 10 persons want to participate in the course, provide multiple groups in order to create the best possible learning environment. If you do not have a sufficient number of leaders, start a waiting list for the next group. In the meantime, begin training new leaders within the group or groups you currently have.

## UNIT 1

# BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

*Hymn Part 1*

## **CHRIST'S FREEDOM**

*“Let this mind be in you,  
which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

PHILIPPIANS 2:5



### **DAY 1**

Characteristics of a Christlike Mind, Part 1

### **DAY 2**

Characteristics of a Christlike Mind, Part 2

### **DAY 3**

Philippians 2:5-11

### **DAY 4**

Developing the Mind of Christ

### **DAY 5**

Fix Your Thoughts on Jesus

### **Why You Will Find This Unit Helpful**

You will understand what God will do in you and expect of you during this course (and for the rest of your life) to develop the mind of Christ in you. You will begin to cultivate a deeper intimacy with God in prayer and in His Word.

## **Lifelong Objective**

In Christ you will set, renew, and gird up your mind in such a way that God will develop in you a spiritual mind characterized as alive, single-minded, lowly, pure, responsive, and peaceful.

## **Summary of God's Work in You**

God's desire is for you to be like Christ. The one aspect of your personality that He will constantly measure for Christlikeness is your mind. God helps in your growth by revealing through His Word the expectations He has for your mind. Through His Word, His work, His grace, and His Spirit, you can have the mind of Christ.

## **Unit Learning Goals**

- You will understand the meaning of six characteristics of the Christlike mind.
- You will understand what God will do to develop Christlike qualities in your mind.
- You will understand three stages in the process of developing the mind of Christ.
- You will demonstrate your willingness to set your mind on Christ and submit to His renewing of your mind.
- You will understand your role in developing the mind of Christ.
- You will know the focus of your thoughts related to the Apostle and the High Priest roles of Christ.
- You will demonstrate your commitment to begin developing the mind of Christ.

## **What You Will Do to Begin Developing the Mind of Christ**

- You will study the characteristics of a Christlike mind.
- You will set your mind and attention on Christ.
- You will begin to allow Christ to renew your mind.
- You will gird up your mind for action.

## **Scripture Memory Verse**

“Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:2).

## **The Mind of Christ Cards Related to This Unit**

- 1A. Scripture Memory—Philippians 2:5-8
- 1B. Scripture Memory—Philippians 2:9-11
- 2A. Six Characteristics of a Christlike Mind
- 2B. Three Stages in Developing the Mind of Christ
- 3A. Unit 1: Scripture Memory—Romans 12:2

## **Optional DVD Message by T. W. Hunt**

- Session 2, Part 1, Chapters 1–4: His Lifestyle


DAY 1  
CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHRISTLIKE MIND, PART 1




**Today's Bible Meditation**  
 "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:2).

**Name of Christ for Today**  
 The Bread of Life  
 (John 6:35)

**Prayer to Begin the Lesson**  
*Jesus, I am hungry and thirsty for Your righteousness. I want to be like You. You are the Bread of life itself. Fill me with Yourself so that I can experience the abundant life You came to give. Amen.*

-  1. **Begin by reading in the left margin the Scripture for meditation and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study. Reading those items each day will help prepare you for our time together.**

Welcome to *The Mind of Christ*. You are beginning a lifelong process of developing the mind of Christ. Right now that thought may be too big to understand. Through Paul, God has commanded His people to "let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). The mind of Christ! We are not told to have a good mind, not a mind purified by discipline, not a sharpened intellect, not even the highest of human attainment in godliness and virtue—but the very mind of Christ Himself! We are not merely to resemble Jesus. We are to think His very thoughts. This is not a wish but a command. We are to have the mind of the only perfect human who ever walked our earth—the mind of the God-man Jesus Christ. Can you see why this will be a lifelong process? Let's get started.

-  2. **If you have not read the introduction (pp. 8–11), do that before continuing. Please check the box when you have read it.**

-  3. **You will learn many names of Christ in this study. What name did you learn today? \_\_\_\_\_**

These first three activities are simple. Future activities will become more meaningful. We began with these to get you off to a good start in our study together. Please complete each instruction or activity as best you can so that God will have the maximum opportunity to work in your life.

Six times the New Testament describes or implies what the Christian's mind is to be like. In each case the word *mind* is mentioned. From these we can derive six adjectives that describe God's ideal for your mind. Let's begin our study by looking at these six characteristics.



SIX CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHRISTLIKE MIND

1. **Alive.** "The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace" (Rom. 8:6, NASB).
2. **Single-minded.** "I am afraid, lest ... your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ" (2 Cor. 11:3, NASB).
3. **Lowly.** "In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Phil. 2:3).
4. **Pure.** "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled" (Titus 1:15).
5. **Responsive.** "He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Luke 24:45, NASB).
6. **Peaceful.** "The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace" (Rom. 8:6, NASB).

Throughout this course you will look in detail at the life of Jesus. You will see that these six characteristics were true of His mind. Let's look at what each one means for your mind.

### Alive

Paul tells us, "The mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace" (Rom. 8:6, NASB). Our first and last characteristics—alive and peaceful—come from this verse. Without Christ we are dead (see Eph. 2:1). In Christ we have everlasting life (see John 3:36). Jesus went further than saying we live. Jesus said that He came so that we could have abundant life (see John 10:10). You constantly demonstrate this life (or death) by the choices you make. When you set your mind on the Spirit, you experience life.

### 4. What is one characteristic of a Christlike mind? \_\_\_\_\_

You can choose what you will think about. That is why the will is so important. "The mind set on the flesh is death" (Rom. 8:6, NASB). The mind that is set on the Spirit is alive and active. Life is distinguished by activity. The mind of Christ is not lazy. It enjoys occupation. At times it reflects on the person of God. At times it prays. At times it brings the intentions of God into our dialogue with another Christian or with a non-Christian. The mind that is alive chooses the spiritual in preference to the fleshly.

*The mind that is alive chooses the spiritual in preference to the fleshly.*

### Single-Minded

A second description of the mind occurs in 2 Corinthians 11:3: "I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ" (NASB). In other words, the mind of Christ is single-minded in devotion to Christ.

One of our spiritual problems is becoming distracted or being led astray. Concentration is difficult because the mind is bombarded by so many distractions. Most of our minds dart off in hundreds of directions during the course of a day. Single-mindedness is an act of the mind. A single-minded Christian pays attention to Christ, His commands, His person, and His ways.

*A single-minded Christian pays attention to Christ, His commands, His person, and His ways.*

Your mind must be preoccupied with sincere, pure devotion to Christ. Single-mindedness is the discipline of attention. We will see in more detail the great importance of your will in future lessons. You can direct or control your attention with a focus on Christ and His kingdom.

### 5. What is a second characteristic of a Christlike mind? \_\_\_\_\_


### Lowly


Paul gave another description of the godly mind in Philippians 2:3: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." The mind is to be lowly. Humility, a twin of lowliness, will be treated later in the study of servanthood (unit 6). Someone cannot be humble unless he is lowly. Humility follows lowliness of mind. Humility speaks of a relationship to others and to God. Lowliness is a state of mind.

The opposite of lowliness is haughtiness, pride, or arrogance. Lowliness is a trait that must be cultivated. Members of the body of Christ learn to submit to one another by lowliness. We can foster lowliness by concentrating on a genuine appreciation for the person of God. We start there. Lowliness must come first in order for the perspective to be right.

Those who encountered God in the Bible almost always first experienced genuine terror or fear before Him. This is a godly fear, not a carnal fear. Those who met God knew the need for lowliness. They immediately recognized the vast difference between God and themselves. A clear view of God's greatness will lead you to a proper view of yourself. A lowly Christian has the security of understanding his position under the greatness of God.

*A lowly Christian has the security of understanding his position under the greatness of God.*

 6. What is a third characteristic of a Christlike mind? \_\_\_\_\_


 7. You have learned about three characteristics of a Christlike mind.

Write the appropriate characteristic in front of its definition.

\_\_\_\_\_ A proper perspective of my position under the greatness of God

\_\_\_\_\_ Disciplined attention on Christ and His kingdom

\_\_\_\_\_ Activity of the mind that chooses the spiritual over the fleshly



 8. Conclude today's lesson by focusing on Christ and His kingdom.

Spend time in prayer.

- Talk to the Lord about what He is doing or preparing to do in your life and church.
- Thank God for the privilege of becoming like His Son, Jesus Christ.
- Acknowledge your proper position of lowliness before His greatness.

**DAY 2**  
**CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHRISTLIKE MIND, PART 2**



-  1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verse and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.
-  2. Can you remember the three characteristics of a Christlike mind that you studied yesterday? Write the three below and check your work.

\_\_\_\_\_


**Pure**

Paul spoke about the mind in Titus 1:15: "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." Purity is depicted as a Christian's natural state. Impurity is reached by corruption of the mind and conscience.

-  3. What is one characteristic of a Christlike mind? \_\_\_\_\_

The natural spiritual state—one that is filled with God's Spirit and growing in Christ—is difficult to maintain. One reason is the constant assault of information on our senses. Tempters have opportunities to take us into realms of thought never known before. Television and computers, for example, can channel impurities right into the privacy of our homes. Lust is grander. Jealousy is more treacherous. Greed is simply the road to an important position, and anxiety is more fashionable. Sin is everywhere.

To overcome the temptations toward impurity, you must want to be pure. Until that desire becomes your passion, you will be overwhelmed by the impressions flooding into your senses. If your desire for purity is sincere, God will provide you with the way of overcoming impurities (see 1 Cor. 10:13). Your safest course is to escape temptation entirely. The psalmist used this approach when he said, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes" (Ps. 101:3). Strength comes prior to temptation, not during it. Overcoming is a prior act. It involves making a decision to remain pure before the temptation comes. If you have not made up your mind before the temptation, you are going to be vulnerable.

-  4. What is the safest way to maintain purity in the face of temptation?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Responsive**

When Jesus appeared to His disciples on the evening of the resurrection, "He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Luke 24:45, NASB). The Lord could not open some minds today! When Jesus chose the disciples, He recognized in them a quality that made them fit subjects for 3½ years of intensive training. The disciples did not always learn quickly, but they were teachable. They at least wanted to learn. We might call this quality open-mindedness, but modern

**Today's Bible Meditation**  
 "To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Rom. 8:6).

**Name of Christ for Today**  
 Image of the Invisible God (Col. 1:15)

**Prayer to Begin the Lesson**  
*Jesus, Image of the Invisible God, show me the Father. Help me come to know the Father as You reveal to me what He is like. Because He is invisible, help me focus my eyes on You and on the example of Your life. Amen.*


connotations of that word give it a meaning foreign to the quality with which Jesus was working. They were responsive to His teaching.

We see the opposite of responsiveness in 2 Corinthians 3:12-16. Speaking of the Israelites in the desert, Paul said “their minds were blinded” (v. 14). Paul wrote, “Unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart” (v. 15). In Christ, however, the covering is taken away (see v. 14). The spiritual dullness of the Pharisees and Sadducees was willful. They were smug in their self-righteousness and missed the coming of their Messiah. To be unresponsive to God is to be spiritually dull-witted.

Responsiveness must be to God. We must not be responsive to anything and everything. The disciples were sensitive when they asked, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). In this petition they were not merely envying the enormous ability of Jesus to perform miracles (earlier they had been given authority to heal the sick and cast out demons). Rather, they perceived in Jesus a relationship to His Father that they wanted to imitate. Jesus was intensely spiritual, and they wanted that quality of spirituality in their own lives.


Responsiveness to God is indispensable for progress in your spiritual life. You need to be sensitive to God’s Holy Spirit. How can you cultivate that sensitivity? One way is to spend time in God’s Word. Specifically, Jesus opened the minds of the disciples to Scripture. God wants you to understand His Word, but you cannot understand it if you do not spend time in it. Prayer also sensitizes your spirit. When the disciples wanted to imitate Jesus, it was His teaching on prayer that they asked for.

*How can you cultivate that sensitivity? One way is to spend time in God’s Word. Prayer also sensitizes your spirit.*


 5. What are two disciplines that can indicate a responsive mind?

---

The Mind of Christ Cards at the back of this book are one of the tools provided to help you. You can carry these cards with you. Throughout the day you may have free time on a break, waiting in an office, or another opportunity. Use the cards to memorize Scripture. Some of the cards will help you review the content you are studying. Saturate your mind with the things of God.

 6. Turn to the back of the book and tear out the following cards that relate to this unit.

- 1A. Scripture Memory—Philippians 2:5-8
- 1B. Scripture Memory—Philippians 2:9-11
- 2A. Six Characteristics of a Christlike Mind
- 2B. Three Stages in Developing the Mind of Christ
- 3A. Unit 1: Scripture Memory—Romans 12:2

 7. While the idea is fresh on your mind, take a few minutes to begin memorizing Romans 12:2 (Card 3A).


Jesus was sensitive and responsive in the utmost degree to His Father. Jesus said, “I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me” (John 8:28, NASB). He claimed to see what the Father was doing, to hear what the Father was saying, to do nothing independently of the Father, and to be taught by the Father. Jesus devoted Himself to reflecting the mind of the Father, and His reflection was exact. As the Father is to the Son, so Christ is to you.

- Jesus imitated the Father. You are to imitate Christ.
- Jesus saw the activity of the Father. You pay close attention to the known earthly activity of Jesus (also to His present activity).
- Jesus heard from the Father. You must hear from Jesus.
- Jesus was taught by the Father. You are taught by Jesus.
- Jesus could do nothing independently of the Father, and you cannot function independently of Jesus.
- Jesus was very close to the Father. You must remain close to Jesus.

**Peaceful**

Romans 8:6 has already given us the adjective *alive* to apply to the spiritual mind. It also gives another word: “The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.” The spiritual mind is peaceful. Peace is a fruit of the Spirit (see Gal. 5:22), not an attainment. Your work is setting your mind. God’s work is providing the peace. Jesus had peace. His life was completely free from sin and the ravages of the world system. He promised rest to the weary and burdened (see Matt. 11:28). You find rest by taking His yoke.

*Your work is setting your mind. God’s work is providing the peace.*


 **8. Name the three remaining characteristics of a Christlike mind.**

- |                         |                   |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>Alive</b>         | 3. <b>Lowly</b>   | 5. <b>R</b> _____ |
| 2. <b>Single-minded</b> | 4. <b>P</b> _____ | 6. <b>P</b> _____ |

To summarize this week’s unit, you are to do three things in developing the mind of Christ. You are to—

1. set your mind;
2. renew your mind;
3. gird up your mind.

In doing these things, you are imitating Christ. As you progress through this course, you will be engaging in one of these mental operations. The New Testament mentions six things your mind is to become: alive, single-minded, lowly, pure, responsive, and peaceful. As you engage in these mental operations, you are obeying Scripture and becoming like Christ. Each of our units will relate to one of these key adjectives of a Christlike mind.

 **9. Pray as you finish today’s lesson. Review the six characteristics of a Christlike mind on Card 2A and ask God to work in you to produce all six of those characteristics.**

**DAY 3**  
**PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11**



**Today's Bible Meditation**  
"Behold, the kingdom of  
God is within you"  
(Luke 17:21).

**Name of Christ for Today**  
The Christ [Anointed  
One] (Matt. 16:16)

**Prayer to Begin  
the Lesson**  
*Christ Jesus, You are the  
Messiah—God's Anointed  
One. I'm anxious to see some  
progress in developing Your  
mind in me, but I'm already  
aware that this will be a  
long process. I am thankful  
I don't have to do it alone.  
You dwell in me to help with  
the process. I love You. I look  
forward to deepening our  
relationship and to develop-  
ing Your mind in me. Amen.*

**1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verse and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.**

You have studied six characteristics of a Christlike mind. They describe God's ideal for your mind. During your study of *The Mind of Christ*, God will work to develop those characteristics in your mind.

As I have carefully studied our primary text for this course, Philippians 2:5-11, I have come to see six parts in the hymn. Each of the parts describes an aspect of Christ's life and mind. As we study each of those parts, God will work to develop in you the six characteristics of a Christlike mind. During today's lesson we will identify how each hymn part is related to what God will do in your life. God's kingdom (rule) is being realized as you become like Christ. The inner work God does in your mind will find expression outwardly in the way you live your life.

**2. Get out your Mind of Christ Cards for this unit and do the following.**

- Read the hymn in Philippians 2:5-11 on Cards 1A and 1B.
- Begin memorizing the hymn at your own pace. It is an assignment over and above your weekly memory verse. Start today by working on verse 5. You may want to set a personal goal to memorize the hymn during the coming 12 weeks.
- Review the Six Characteristics of a Christlike Mind on Card 2A.

Now let's look in more detail at each part of the hymn in Philippians 2:5-11 and what God will do to develop a Christlike mind in you. The format we will use includes a hymn part and a title related to the mind of Christ. Beside each title is listed in parentheses the unit(s) related to that part of our hymn. Next, you will read that part of the hymn text. Finally, you will see the Christlike characteristic God will develop in you.

**Part 1: Christ's Freedom (Units 2–3)**

*Alive*

*Hymn.* "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5).

*Christlike characteristic: alive.* Christians can experience mental battles when the desires of the flesh clash with the desires of the Spirit. Christ intends to set you free from the dominion of sin in your life that causes such battles. Genuine freedom can occur only where spiritual life exists. Life is not fully spiritual until it is fully free. God will work to give you life and freedom in Christ.

**3. Write this characteristic below and fill in the word to indicate what God will do in your life.**


Characteristic— \_\_\_\_\_ : God will work to give me  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

**Part 2: Christ’s Lifestyle (Units 4–5)**

*Hymn.* “... who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God” (Phil. 2:6).

*Christlike characteristic: single-minded.* The human mind tends to waver like a ship on a stormy sea. Distractions are plentiful. The world works to shape you into its mold. Single-mindedness means you set your mind and heart on first seeking God’s kingdom. As you determine to put His kingdom first, God will begin to give you the virtues of godly wisdom and the fruit of the Spirit.

*Single-minded*

 4. Write this characteristic below and fill in the word to indicate what God will do in your life.


Characteristic— \_\_\_\_\_: God will work to give me the virtues of godly \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit.

**Part 3: Christ’s Servanthood (Unit 6)**

*Hymn.* Jesus “made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant” (Phil. 2:7).

*Christlike characteristic: lowly.* Pride has been a foe of right living since Adam and Eve sinned in the garden. God despises the proud, but He dwells with the lowly. Lowliness does not mean belittling yourself. Rather, it means esteeming others. God will be working to help you see His greatness. With a lowly spirit you will take on the characteristics of servanthood.

*Lowly*

 5. Write this characteristic below and fill in the word to indicate what God will do in your life.


Characteristic— \_\_\_\_\_: God will work to help me see His \_\_\_\_\_, and with a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit I will take on the characteristics of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Part 4: Christ’s Humanity (Units 7–10)**

*Hymn.* Jesus “was made in the likeness of men”; He was “found in fashion as a man” (Phil. 2:7-8).

*Christlike characteristic: pure.* When God became man, He demonstrated His intention that human beings have great authority and nobility. To have these two attributes, you must be pure. This purity will show in the way you express your humanity: in your emotions, in your relationships to things and people, and in your daily walk in the Spirit. God will work in you to cleanse the impurities of your life and to establish right patterns for living.

*Pure*

 6. Write this characteristic below and fill in the word to indicate what God will do in your life.


Characteristic— \_\_\_\_\_: God will work in me to cleanse the \_\_\_\_\_ of my life and to establish \_\_\_\_\_ patterns for living.

**Part 5: Christ's Holiness and Love (Unit 11)**

*Responsive*

*Hymn.* Jesus “became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:8).

*Christlike characteristic: responsive.* Jesus “became obedient unto death.” His obedience purchased for us our holiness. Which death did Jesus die? “Even the death of the cross.” This was the ultimate expression of God’s love. Because of what Jesus did, we gladly obey Him. Responsiveness is not “doing your duty.” In being responsive, you choose to share Christ’s nature of holiness and love. God will work to make you holy and to teach you to love with Christlike love.

 7. Write this characteristic below and fill in the word to indicate what God will do in your life.


Characteristic—\_\_\_\_\_ : God will work to make  
me \_\_\_\_\_ and to teach me to \_\_\_\_\_ with Christlike love.

**Part 6: Christ's Name (Unit 12)**


*Peaceful*

*Hymn:* “... wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:9-11).

*Christlike characteristic: peaceful.* Jesus’ love bought peace for us. Peace is not the absence of conflict but the harvest of love. Christ’s love took Him to Calvary. But in His death Jesus bought peace for us—peace with God. The resurrection was Christ’s victory over sin and death. His victory made peace a reality. Through Christ’s death, resurrection, and exaltation we can experience genuine peace. Peace doesn’t come while your flesh battles God for control. Peace comes when you finally bow your knees to Christ and allow Him to be the absolute Lord of your life. God will work to exalt Christ before you so that you will completely surrender to His lordship.

 8. Write this characteristic below and fill in the word to indicate what God will be doing in your life.

Characteristic—\_\_\_\_\_ : God will work to exalt Christ  
before me so that I will completely \_\_\_\_\_ to His \_\_\_\_\_.

 9. Close your study today in prayer. Of all the characteristics, which one do you sense God most wants to work on in your life? Ask God. Open your life to Him and give Him permission to mold you into the image of His Son. Thank God for the model He has given you in Jesus.

**DAY 4**  
**DEVELOPING THE MIND OF CHRIST**



1. Begin today’s lesson by reading Bible verse and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.

**Today’s Bible Meditation**  
 “Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth” (Col. 3:2, NASB).

The New Testament uses three verbs concerning the mind. Becoming like Christ is accomplished through a process. If we think of the operations of the mind as a process, the three verbs can be neatly classified as the beginning, middle, and ending parts of the process. I define these three stages in the following way.

**Name of Christ for Today**  
 The Lord Our Righteousness (Jer. 23:6)



THREE STAGES IN DEVELOPING THE MIND OF CHRIST

Beginning stage	The Will Principle	Set your mind on things above.
Growing stage	The River Principle	Allow God to <i>renew</i> your mind.
Qualified stage	The Readiness Principle	<i>Gird up</i> your mind for action.

**Prayer to Begin the Lesson**

*Lord, You are my Righteousness. My righteousness is like filthy rags to You. Please guide me through the process by which Your life becomes my life and Your righteousness becomes my righteousness. Help me set my mind and heart on You. Amen.*

**The Will Principle**

The first verb, or the beginning of the process, is found in Colossians 3:2: “Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth” (NASB). A similar idea occurs in Philippians 4:8: “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things” (NASB).

**Beginning Stage**  
*Set your mind on things above.*

We call this stage the Will Principle. You must set your mind. You must decide, choose, or determine the focus of your mind. That is where you start in developing the mind of Christ. The opposite of *will* is *instinct* or *unwilled reactions*. Decision making is not a problem with animals. But with human beings the will is the part of your mind over which you have control. The will enables you to obey in spite of your feelings or intuitions. Often you cannot control your emotions, but you always have control over your will. Your goal is to take “every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5, NASB). Giving God your will is the first step in having the mind of Christ.

2. What do you do during the first stage, the Beginning Stage?

I (a verb) \_\_\_\_\_ my mind.

3. What does it mean to set your mind? Define it in your own words.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In the Beginning Stage you set your mind on Christ. You give your will to God and seek His will as your own. Christ repeatedly identified His will with that of His

Father. In the last week of His earthly life, as He faced the cross, Jesus said, “Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name” (John 12:27-28). Jesus openly confessed that His emotions were one place, but His will was in another. This decision to let His will rule over His emotions or feelings is also seen in Christ’s plea in Gethsemane: “Father, ... take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt” (Mark 14:36). Jesus’ performance was flawless because He set His will from the beginning. Jesus’ mind was given to God. Therefore, His actions worked out the implications of a blameless mind. Jesus’ mind was set on things above.

I was once asked to take a position that would involve tremendous personal sacrifice as well as a huge salary cut. It also offered an opportunity to expand God’s kingdom in a way nothing else offered. My feelings said no, but my will chose the will of God. Only the will can choose beyond feelings.

### The River Principle

Our second verb is *renew*. In Romans 12:2 Paul said, “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” A Christian lives in a constant state of renewal! After you give your will to God, you must continue to allow your mind to be changed (transformed) by a renewing process. This part of the process is a time of growth.


We call this middle or growing stage of the process the River Principle. Jesus said, “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water’ ” (John 7:38, NASB). Fresh, living water flows in and washes out the old and the dead. Most of us do not work on the River Principle. We work on the Pond Principle! Ponds become stagnant, but rivers flow. Ponds become puddles, but rivers become oceans. You are to grow spiritually, and your growth in Christ is ultimately to be enormous.

Your body grows by producing new cells. As long as life continues, your body constantly produces new cells. That newness is a sign of life. Failure to produce newness is a sign of death. The spiritual life is also to be characterized by constant renewal. Lack of renewal or growth is a sign of death. I have learned to expect spiritual newness and not to be surprised at what form the newness takes. Sometimes the newness comes in the shape of new insights, previously unknown. Sometimes it comes in the form of spiritual energy. At times it is a new and deeper meaning applied to an old, familiar verse. Newness may occur as you move into a new and deeper relationship to the body of Christ or to another Christian. Newness may involve a new commitment. At times newness takes the form of new strength or a new way to resist temptation. Newness is the way of progress as you move from one glory to another (see 2 Cor. 3:18).

**Growing Stage**  
*Allow God to renew  
your mind.*

### 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

“WE ALL, WITH OPEN FACE  
BEHOLDING AS IN A GLASS  
THE GLORY OF THE LORD,  
ARE CHANGED INTO THE  
SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY  
TO GLORY, EVEN AS BY THE  
SPIRIT OF THE LORD.”

 4. What do you do during the second stage, the Growing Stage?

I (a verb) \_\_\_\_\_ my mind.

 5. Which of the following indicate renewal? Check all that apply.

- a. Newness of spiritual growth
- b. Failure to show any signs of spiritual growth
- c. New insights into the meaning or application of Scripture

- d. Failure to understand or apply Scriptures to my life
- e. Sensing fresh spiritual energy to work for the Master
- f. Weakness, tiredness, and lack of spiritual energy to work for the Master


Allow God to renew your mind in the Growing Stage. Do you see the contrast between the River and the Pond Principles? Renewal brings newness, new insights, and fresh spiritual energy (a, c, e). Christ’s life demonstrated progress and growth: “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man” (Luke 2:52). “Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered” (Heb. 5:8, NASB). If you are to have the mind of Christ, you must expect newness. That is the way of growth. That is renewal.

**The Readiness Principle**


Our third verb associated with the mind takes us to the climax of the process. We are to gird up our minds for action (see 1 Pet. 1:13). The reference is to the long, flowing robes people wore in the first century. People could not run or move quickly in such dress. To do anything athletic, a person had to lift the edge of the robe and tuck it under the belt to free the lower legs for action. This was called girding up the robe. In this command is the Readiness Principle. Your mind is to be prepared for action.

**Qualified Stage**  
*Gird up your mind for action.*

**1 PETER 1:13**  
 “GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND, BE SOBER, AND HOPE TO THE END FOR THE GRACE THAT IS TO BE BROUGHT UNTO YOU AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.”


 **6. What do you do during the third stage, the Qualified Stage?**

I (a verb) \_\_\_\_\_ my mind.


 **7. What does that mean? Define it in your own words.**

\_\_\_\_\_


In the Qualified Stage you prepare your mind for action by girding it up. Jesus was alert, or ready, as various groups attempted to trap Him with trick questions in Luke 20:20-40. The scribes and the chief priests asked whether Jews should pay taxes to the foreign Roman government. Their trap failed when Jesus answered that they should give both God and Caesar their just due. When the Sadducees questioned Him about resurrection, Jesus skillfully corrected their wrong ideas about the nature of the future life. Jesus demonstrated a mental readiness at all times. Readiness means being qualified for service. If your will is set and your mind has grown through constant renewal, you will be qualified for any test God allows to come your way. Be alert and ready.

 **8. Write each verb (*gird up, renew, set*) beside its description below.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Focused attention
- \_\_\_\_\_ Growth and newness
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prepared for action

 9. Match each verb on the right with the proper stage and principle listed on the left. Write the letter of the verb on the line beside the stage.

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| _____ 1. Beginning: the Will Principle      | a. Gird up |
| _____ 2. Growing: the River Principle       | b. Set     |
| _____ 3. Qualified: the Readiness Principle | c. Renew   |

 10. Close this lesson by setting your mind on the Lord in prayer.

- Ask God to give you focused attention to things above.
- Offer your will to God. Seek His will as you begin this three-stage process of developing the mind of Christ.

## DAY 5 FIX YOUR THOUGHTS ON JESUS




### Today's Bible Meditations

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee”  
(Isa. 26:3).


“Holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess”  
(Heb. 3:1, NIV).

**Name of Christ  
for Today**  
Apostle and High Priest of  
Our Profession  
(Heb. 3:1)

**Prayer to Begin  
the Lesson**  
*Lord Jesus, I confess that You are the Apostle and High Priest of my profession. I have decided to study this course because of my desire to know You better. I want*

 1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verses and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer in the margin to begin your study.

Developing the mind of Christ involves a three-stage process. In nature we see the development of the mind in a little child as a process. So in the spiritual world, developing the mind of Christ is also a process. Even at spiritual birth we have the mind of Christ (see 1 Cor. 2:16). But in subsequent growth that mind must contend with established habits, the culture in which we live, and the work of Satan to keep it from growing (along with other factors to be mentioned later). In us the mind of Christ matures in a process of growth.


 2. Based on yesterday's study, what are the three verbs that describe the three stages of that process? Write the verbs in the blanks.

**Beginning:** S \_\_\_\_\_

**Growing:** R \_\_\_\_\_

**Qualified:** G \_\_\_\_\_

The apostle John said, “We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is” (1 John 3:2, NASB). Whatever degree of Christlikeness we attain on earth will not match that final perfection of being just like Him. Jesus will return some day to claim His own. In His presence we will become like Him without spot or blemish. Our destiny is to be like Christ. God intends it. He has commanded it, and the Scriptures call on us to participate in the process of becoming like Him.


 3. What is your ultimate destiny as a child of God?

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Yes, you are to be like Christ in eternity. Jesus said, “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become as his teacher, and the slave as his master” (Matt. 10:24-25, NASB). Plainly, Jesus expected you to become like Him. Peter tells us, “You have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps” (1 Pet. 2:21). Not only are you to think like Christ, but you are to follow His lifestyle. Peter also gives this command: “As Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind” (1 Pet. 4:1). In the process of becoming like Christ, you are to accept suffering as a tool to put the flesh to death. Developing the mind of Christ is costly. Yet its value is far beyond any cost that may be required.

*You to develop Your mind in me. I begin this study by fixing my mind and thoughts on You. Help me keep my mind stayed on You during these coming weeks. Amen.*

*Jesus expected you to become like Him.*

 4. If you had to be honest with yourself, what are you feeling about developing the mind of Christ? Check all that apply or write your own response.

- I'm overwhelmed. This is too much. I can't do it.
- I'm fearful. The idea of suffering sounds scary.
- I'm excited. I understand some of the cost, but I know the results will be well worth it all.
- I'm confused. I still don't quite understand what I'm getting into.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**God Is at Work**

You may feel all of the previous emotions. I have felt them all at one time or another. Paul tells us that those “he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son” (Rom. 8:29). That is God's goal for us: the image of His Son. Later Paul wrote, “We all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit” (2 Cor. 3:18, NASB). What an awesome thing—to become like Christ!

We have good news for you, though. Passages in the New Testament suggest that the process of being molded into Christ's image is primarily the work of God. We are the subjects; God is the active agent. You are not alone in this process. It does not solely depend on you. Paul indicates that God does two things for you: “It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13). God causes you to want the mind of Christ, and He enables you to develop it. Then Paul tells us, “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6). We are commanded to “[fix] our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith” (Heb. 12:2, NASB). God is the initiator of our faith, and He will complete its perfect work. Each of us will meet many discouraging circumstances in the process of becoming like Him, but we need not despair. We do not complete the work. Jesus does. Our eyes are fixed on Him as the Perfecter of our faith.

God wants you to develop the mind of Christ. He causes you to want it. He enables you to do it. Then one day Christ perfects the work God began. What a guarantee! That should be encouraging news for you.

 5. Which of the following statements describes the role you have in developing the mind of Christ? Check one.

- I'm in this work all alone. If anything happens, I'll have to do it. If I don't do it, nothing will get done.
- I'm not alone; God is my helper. But I carry the main assignment. God will help if I get in a jam, but the whole burden is on me.
- God is at work in me, molding me into the image of His Son. As I submit to His work and cooperate with Him, God will bring it to pass.

### Apostle and High Priest


The writer of Hebrews commands us to “consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession” (Heb. 3:1, NASB). The name Apostle indicates one who has been sent. Jesus was sent from heaven to earth. We are to consider Jesus. To consider means to fix your mind, thoughts, and attention on Him—to set your mind on Christ. We are to fasten our attention on His earthly life as revealed in the Gospels. Then we are to follow in Christ’s steps (see 1 Pet. 2:21).

We are also to consider Him as High Priest. Jesus served as our High Priest when He offered His life as the perfect sacrifice for us. But presently, Jesus is our High Priest as He makes intercession for us (see Heb. 7:25). Much of that High Priestly role is revealed in the New Testament Epistles.

If we are to consider both the Apostle and the High Priest, we must know the Gospels for the Apostle life and the New Testament Letters for the High Priestly life. The Gospels show us Jesus in action on earth. When we fix our thoughts on His lifestyle, we can pattern our lives after His example. The Letters describe for us both the meaning of the Apostle and the present intercessory role of the High Priest in heaven. We are to fix our thoughts on His divine work in our behalf.


**HEBREWS 7:25**

“HE IS ABLE ALSO TO SAVE THEM TO THE UTTERMOST THAT COME UNTO GOD BY HIM, SEEING HE EVER LIVETH TO MAKE INTERCESSION FOR THEM.”

 6. Match the roles of Christ in the left column with the intended focus of our thoughts in the middle column. Then indicate where we learn about that focus by matching each name with a section of the New Testament in the third column. (Write two letters in front of each name.)

- |       |       |             |                              |                          |
|-------|-------|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | Apostle     | a. His divine work in heaven | x. Gospels               |
| _____ | _____ | High Priest | b. His earthly life          | y. New Testament Letters |

Our goal is to become like Christ. We have a role in that process: we are commanded to think like Christ. The main work in the process, however, belongs to God. Our Christlikeness is His intention. God has predetermined it and is currently transforming us “from glory to glory” (2 Cor. 3:18) into the likeness of Christ. In working with God in the process, we carefully study all the revealed aspects of the human life of Christ and seek to follow in His steps. (Answers: Apostle—b, x; High Priest—a, y.)

 7. As you finish this first unit, review your memory verse. Work at hiding God’s Word in your heart so that you will be better prepared to face temptation when it comes. Ask God to work in you during this course to open your mind and heart to the Scriptures. Commit to God your intention of responding to all He may reveal to you during your study. Consider praying this prayer.

*I am both frightened and thrilled by the command to become like Jesus. I agree with You, Father, that He is a “Lamb without blemish and without spot.” Am I really to be without blemish and without spot like Him? At this point that seems almost unfathomable. But I truly want to be obedient. I want to be like Jesus.*

*Thank You for a starting place. For Jesus’ sake and in His name, I give my mind to You. I have set my mind on things above, as far as I know how to do that. I seek continuing renewal and thank You for it. I will gird up my mind and live in a state of readiness to witness to the glories of Jesus. It seems that my mind must be alive, or I would not want to be like Him. Thank You that Jesus was single-minded, lowly, pure, responsive, and peaceful. Help me be like Him in those specific ways. Amen.*

GROUP SESSION 1

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

SESSION GOALS

This session will help you understand how God will be working in your life during this course to develop the mind of Christ. You will demonstrate a willingness to help one another become like Christ.

PSALM 34:3

“O MAGNIFY THE LORD WITH ME, AND LET US EXALT HIS NAME TOGETHER.”

EPHESIANS 5:25-27

“CHRIST ALSO LOVED THE CHURCH, AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR IT; THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY AND CLEANSE IT WITH THE WASHING OF WATER BY THE WORD, THAT HE MIGHT PRESENT IT TO HIMSELF A GLORIOUS CHURCH, NOT HAVING SPOT, OR WRINKLE, OR ANY SUCH THING; BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH.”

HEBREWS 10:24, NASB

“LET US CONSIDER HOW TO STIMULATE ONE ANOTHER TO LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS.”

Hearing What the Spirit Is Saying (as you arrive)

1. (Individuals) Review what God has been saying to you during the study of unit 1.
  - Identify a Scripture and a name of Christ that have been meaningful this week.
  - Identify and mark the issue or subject in which God seems to be working most actively to develop the mind of Christ. (These will be shared later in the session.)
2. (Individuals) Write any questions related to this unit that you would like answered.

Magnifying the Lord and Exalting His Name (5 minutes)

1. (Leader) Open the session in prayer by asking God to work in the minds and lives of group members that you may reflect the mind of Christ. Acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit and ask Him to be your Teacher during the session.
2. Read Psalm 34:3.
3. Pray as you feel led to worship God for who He is and acknowledge Him for what He has done. Use the names of Christ to exalt His name together in prayer.
4. Share ways God revealed Himself to you this week through His names. Which name of Christ has been most meaningful to you and why?

Transforming by the Word (15 minutes)

1. (Pairs) Pair up and quote this week’s memory verse, Romans 12:2.
2. Share what God said to you through this week’s memory verse or other Scripture that has been especially meaningful.
3. Read Ephesians 5:25-27.
4. (Quads or two groups) Distribute poster board or newsprint and markers to each of two groups. Make two lists related to characteristics of a Christlike mind. Focus on this unit’s Scriptures only.
  - Group 1: Make a list of things, actions, or attitudes identified or implied in Scriptures from this unit that need to be cleansed from a person’s mind and life.
  - Group 2: Make a list of things, actions, or attitudes identified or implied in Scriptures from this unit that need to be incorporated into a person’s mind and life.
  - For example: We need to transform ourselves from being *carnally minded* (group 1) to being *spiritually minded* (group 2) (see Rom. 8:6).
5. Call on quads to read and comment on their lists. Place one on the Transformed From wall and the other on the Transformed To wall.
6. (Volunteer) Pray that God will cleanse members of your group and church.

Stimulating One Another to Love and Good Deeds (20 minutes)

1. Read Hebrews 10:24 from your session segment poster. How can we help each other as we seek the mind of Christ together?
2. Share testimonies of what God has done this week in your life that has been meaningful, challenging, or instructive.

3. State questions or concerns you have written for consideration. As time permits, seek to answer the questions as a group.
4. As time permits, discuss one or more of the following questions.
  - Why do you want to develop the mind of Christ? or Why have you decided to participate in this course?
  - Which of the six characteristics of the Christlike mind seems to be the most rare in the church today? Why do you think that is true? What do you think could be done better to develop that characteristic in believers' lives?
  - Which of the three principles (Will, River, or Readiness, pp. 23–25) is most needed in your life right now and why? What are some ways we can: (1) set our minds on things above? (2) experience the renewing of our minds? (3) gird up our minds for action?
  - What role do you have in developing the mind of Christ? What is God's role? (See "God Is at Work," pp. 27–28.)
5. Turn to page 27 and share your response to the activity 4.

### Preparing the Bride for Her Bridegroom (5 minutes)

1. Read Revelation 19:1-9. Listen for ways the bride (the church) needs to prepare for the return of Christ.
2. As time permits, discuss these questions.
  - What needs to be done between now and the marriage supper of the Lamb in order for the bride to be ready?
  - What cleansing, purifying, or preparation is needed in our church?
  - How can we apply this Scripture to our lives, families, and church?
3. Pray for your church to continue to prepare for the Lord's return.

### Praying for One Another (10 minutes)

1. (Quads) Read James 5:16 and confess your need to become more like Christ in specific ways. Share personal, family, church, or work-related prayer requests that primarily focus on developing the mind of Christ or purifying the bride.
2. (Quads) Specifically pray for one another's forgiveness, healing, encouragement, guidance, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, courage, strength, faithfulness, or requests you shared.

### Closing the Session (5 minutes)

1. Share questions or concerns discussed during the session that we should remember in prayer.
2. Preview unit 2 on the following pages. Notice that the Lifelong Helps (Bondage to Freedom Lists, pp. 224–26) will be used for the first time during unit 2.
3. Close by praying that God will work throughout this study to set, renew, and gird up the minds of group members to grow more like Christ.

#### REVELATION 19:7-9

"LET US BE GLAD AND REJOICE, AND GIVE HONOUR TO HIM: FOR THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB IS COME, AND HIS WIFE HATH MADE HERSELF READY. AND TO HER WAS GRANTED THAT SHE SHOULD BE ARRAYED IN FINE LINEN, CLEAN AND WHITE: FOR THE FINE LINEN IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF SAINTS. AND HE SAITH UNTO ME, WRITE, BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH ARE CALLED UNTO THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB."

#### JAMES 5:16

"CONFESS YOUR FAULTS ONE TO ANOTHER, AND PRAY ONE FOR ANOTHER, THAT YE MAY BE HEALED. THE EFFECTUAL FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILETH MUCH."