

INTRODUCTION

1. This is a day of rights demanded and minus of any feeling of responsibility.
2. Nations, whole races of people are up in arms and ready to do battle because they feel their rights are being violated.
3. Usually they are not willing to accept the responsibility of such rights. Many are not willing to accept their responsibility as citizens, as wives, as husbands, as children, and above all, they are not willing to accept their responsibility as Christains.

THE MIND INVOLVED. WHAT IS THE MIND?

1. The mind is that power within man that moves man away from that which he dislikes.
 - (1) He may dislike the wrong thing depending upon the training of the mind.
2. The mind is that power within man that draws him to that which he likes.
 - (1) It should be remembered that he may like the wrong thing.
3. The battle of the mind is great indeed. The battle of the will is decisive.
 - (1) The worth of a man's professed faith in Christ is determined by how much it controls his will.

A SOLEMN WARNING TO ALL MEN. Matthew 7:12-23 Warning twofold:

1. Jesus seemed to sense that men would try to do what he had been saying, without being what he wanted them to be. NOTE: Some followers of his, so they claimed, had taught in his name, did many wonderful works in his name, even cast out devils in his name but they had not cast out the old life from within. Matthew 7:21-23
2. Jesus seemed to sense that they would take his words, "do unto others as ye would that they should do to you," as a sort of a trade out, a regulation for conduct, rather than a comprehensive principle of guidance, the result of the mind of Christ in the individual as natural, as unrestrained, as overflowing, as gracious as if it came from Christ himself.

THE TWO GREAT PHILOSOPHIES OF LIFE. These sum up all philosophy:

1. ASSERT YOURSELF.

- (1) Care for nothing, for nobody, except yourself. Be strong, be a superman, The world is yours if you can get it.
- (2) This self-assertive attitude is ruthless. Its genesis is selfishness, its exodus is suicide.
- (3) Under this self-assertive mind and attitude Nietzsche, its author died in a madhouse.
 - A. No way could be more opposed to the Mind of Christ way than the self-assertive way.

2. SELF-RENUNCIATION.

- (1) If any man would come after me, let him deny himself (literally, "utterly reject himself"), and take up his cross daily, and follow me. Luke 9:23. Matt. 16:24
Denying oneself and following Christ implies three things:
 1. Imitating Christ. He stooped to the form of a servant. Gave himself in service to others.
 2. Denying oneself. There is no better test of reality and earnestness in the religious life than this one. Not many are willing to give anything.
 3. Obeying Christ. Doing what Jesus did. Doing what Jesus asks us to do and because he asked it of us. The man whose experiences comprises these three things is a Christian; and no one else is one.
- (2) The most absolutely miserable people of the world are the introverts: Those who center upon themselves. This is not the mind of Christ.

WHAT THE INJUNCTION "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus," CONTAINS.

What did Jesus give up? What did he surrender? He gave up two things:

1. His rights. "Made himself of no reputation." Phil. 2:6,7 "I would not give up my rights for any one," we often hear.
2. His liberty. "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Phil. 2:8

Attributes of the mind of Christ:

1. Counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped: not the attitude of "rights."
2. He humbled himself and became obedient: most trouble stems from a lack of humility.

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WHAT IS THE MIND OF CHRIST? Examples:

1. In the Sermon on the Mount there is a beyondness that appalls and even startles the legalistic mind. It sees no limit to duty. The man without the mind of Christ places bounds and limits on his duty. Hither to will I go and no hither. I have done my part no let some one else do. If I like it I will do it! Otherwise, I will not. Such statements reveal the cryptic, Christless mind of man. Consider:
 1. If a man smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. Matt. 5:39
 - (1) "Resist not evil," the first part of the verse.
 - (2) "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: For it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord. Romans 12:19
 - (3) Christ here condemned the common practice of fighting and quarrelling though sorely tried by another. He will not allow us to strike back.
 2. The coat is not enough, he will give the cloak also. Matt. 5:40
 3. To love one's friends is not enough, he will love his enemies as well. Matt. 5:44,45, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you... That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven...."
 - (1) Let the legalistic mind approach these truths and they are once impossible and absurd.
 - (2) Approach them with the mind of Christ and nothing else is possible.

TWO ILLUSTRATIONS: Man in conflict with himself his own greatest enemy:

1. The story of the big Hereford bull seeing himself in the new, bright and shiny car, fighting with his own image in the car. Ruined the car and broke off his horns.
2. The story of the bird seeing itself in a mirror. In fighting itself in the mirror it flew against the mirror until it killed itself.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. To have the mind of Christ means to be caught up out of one's own little narrow rut and set on a wonderful highway paved with the good things of life.
2. To have the mind of Christ means to be able to face the hardships that may come and without murmuring and complaining.
3. To have the mind of Christ is to have that love which "seeketh not her own." 1 Cor. 13:5
4. If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend. 1 Cor. 8:13
5. Ingratitude did not repel Christ, nor cold and pitiless scorn freeze the fountains of his pity.

WHAT IS THE MIND OF CHRIST? Questions:

1. In the Garden on the Mount there is a paymaster who appeals and even attacks the legislative mind. It says no first to duty. The man without the mind of Christ places bounds and makes on his duty. He is to will I do and no higher. I have done my part no let some one else do. If I like it I will do it! Opposed, I will not. Such statements reveal the typical, Christless mind of man. Consider:
 - (1) "I am against the enemy right cheek, turn to him the other also. Matt. 5:39
 - (2) "Resist not evil," the first part of the verse.
 - (3) "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for he that avenge himself, says not himself, I will repay, said the Lord. Rom. 12:19
 - (4) "Children have condemned the common practice of fighting and quarrelling though reproved by another. He will not allow us to strike back.
2. The best is not enough, he will give the flock also. Matt. 23:10
3. To have one's friends is not enough, he will love his enemies as well. Matt. 5:44

"but I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you... that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven...."

 - (1) Let the legalistic mind approach these things and they are once impossible.
 - (2) Approach them with the mind of Christ and nothing else is possible.

THE ILLUSTRATION: Man in conflict with himself his own greatest enemy:

1. The story of the blind men's bull seeing himself in the new, bright and shiny car, feeling with his own hand in the car, pulled the car and broke off his horns.
2. The story of the blind seeing itself in a mirror, in looking itself in the mirror, to the saddest the mirror will be killed itself.

THE ILLUSTRATION

1. To have the mind of Christ means to be caught up out of one's own little narrow and set on a wonderful highway paved with the good things of life.
2. To have the mind of Christ means to be able to face the hardships that may come and suffer patiently and courageously.
3. To have the mind of Christ is to have that love which "reproach not her own." 1 Cor. 13:7
4. It means my brother to offend, I will set no flesh while the world standeth. 1 Cor. 13:4
5. Intellectuals did not regard Christ, nor cold and pillers scorned the fountain of life.