

1. We talked last week with the kinds of thoughts our mindsets that are abnormal for a believer in Jesus.
2. This morning we will be considering thoughts or mindsets that are normal for a believer in Jesus.

**TITLE: The Mind of Christ.**

**TEXT:** 1 Corinthians 2:16 for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. (NIV)

**INTRO:**

1. I hope and pray that all of us have made a decision that we want to have the kind of thoughts that work for our relationship with Jesus rather than against it.
3. And to have the right mindset it is important that we think about what kinds of thoughts Jesus must have had while he was here on the earth and to follow in his footsteps. In other words, it must be a priority for us to think like Jesus.
4. There was a popular saying many years ago, WWJD. I think it's also important to ask...WWJT.
5. The bible tells us that as believers, we have the mind of Christ.
6. Said a different way, we have a new heart and a new spirit.
7. Ezekiel 36:26-27 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. (NIV)
8. As followers of Christ the bible says that we have a new nature, the nature of God. And that new nature was given to us when we accepted Jesus as savior.
9. I said this last week but I believe it bares repeating. If when you accepted Jesus as your savior, you weren't radically changed, and if since then you have not been radically change, then I'm not sure you accepted Jesus.
10. Allowing Jesus to come into our lives and allowing him to be Lord over our life requires change on our part.
11. We're told in Romans 8:6 that the mind controlled by the flesh leads to death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit leads to life.

12. Joyce Meyer in her book, *Battlefield of the Mind* makes a powerful statement. We would make tremendous progress simply by learning how to discern life from death.
13. In reality there are certain lines of thought that fill us full of death.
14. Un-forgiveness would be a classic example of thoughts that fill us with death.
15. If we have been wronged, but we refuse to extend forgiveness to that person, in spite of the fact that the bible tells us we should, there are going to be predictable deadly outcomes in our life.
16. Often times a by-product of unforgiveness is anger, thinking about how much we dislike the person. Getting upset, tense, stressed out, physical consequences like headache, stomach pain, tiredness, all of those things are fruits of un-forgiveness.
17. However, if our mind is filled with how good God is and how faithful he has been to us, those thoughts are going to produce fruit that brings life.
18. We need to learn to discern life and death within our self.
19. What follows is a list of things that help us flow in the mind of Christ.

### **Step 1. Think positive thoughts.**

1. We cannot overstate how important it is to be aware of negative vs. positive thoughts.
2. **Amos 3:3** Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?
3. If we apply that verse to our thought life we will find that if we are thinking negatively, it is because we have agreed to allow those kinds of thoughts in our mind.
4. However, if we are thinking positively, it stands to reason we have agreed to allow those kinds of thoughts in our mind as well.
5. What we think is a choice.
6. Is God positive or negative? Was Jesus positive or negative while he was here on earth?
7. Sure he rebuked some. Sure he chastised others. But for the most part he went around healing, helping and providing hope to everyone who came into contact with him.
8. That sounds pretty positive to me.

9. I think many depictions of Jesus in movies and pictures don't do him justice. He is always depicted as being so serious.
10. I think he smiled a lot and the reason why I think that is because 13 guys hanging out all the time are going to cut up, make fun of one another, and there is going to be a fair amount of laughter.
11. It's important to note that he wasn't positive because there was an absence of negative things in his life. There were lots of negative things going on around him. Difficulties, personal attacks, he was lied about, he was misunderstood, he was deserted by his disciples when he needed them most.
12. On the cross he was mocked and abused. But yet in the midst of all these trials and hardships his heart was intent on giving himself up for us. You got to be pretty positive in order to do that.
13. The mind of Christ is positive; so when we become negative, we are not operating with the mind of Christ.
14. Life is full of downers. Discouragements and depressing situations. So in order to stay positive we must choose positivity.
15. That doesn't mean we ignore or pretend that something isn't painful or hurtful.
16. We're not talking about being delusional. We are talking about being realistic, but at the same time recognizing that I can't afford to allow those circumstances to dictate my mindset.
17. We must choose to allow Christ to dictate our mindset.
18. In doing that there are some things we must consider.

**Depression.** All of us will face depressed feelings at times in our lives. Any time there is a loss, depressed feelings will not be far behind.

- a. Prolonged illnesses or physical pain can cause depression.
- b. There is also such a thing as clinical depression. Depression that requires help from a medical professional to treat. Often times caused by an imbalance of chemicals in the brain.
- c. I want to be clear there is no one size fits all solution for depression. Tomorrow the staff is going for suicide prevention training. Why? Because suicide is real and we can't afford to not take it seriously.

- d. And at the same time we can be encouraged because God is with us even when we are thinking about hurting ourselves.
- e. In fact, many people in the bible wanted to die and they asked God to kill them.
- f. Let's look at an example of how David in the Old Testament handled a particular time of depressed feelings. Take notes. Psalm 143:3-10.
- g. Identify the nature and cause of the problem. (NIV) Psalm 143:3 The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground; he makes me dwell in the darkness like those long dead.
- h. In this case David recognized the source of his discouragement was Satan.
- i. Recognize that depression steals life and light. Psalm 143:4 So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed.
- j. We're not talking about feeling guilty or loathing yourself because you are down; we are simply recognizing the difference between what God wants for our life and our present condition.
- k. Remember the good times. Psalm 143:5 I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done.
- l. Stop what you are doing. Ask yourself the question. Has God ever been good to me? Has he been faithful despite what I am currently going through? The answer to both is yes. Name how God has been good and faithful.
- m. Praise the Lord. Not for the problem but in the problem. Psalm 143:6 I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched land.
- n. David lifted up his hands in worship. He recognized that he was dry and that God was the only one who could satisfy his thirst. That is worship.
- o. Ask for God's help. Psalm 143:7 Answer me quickly, LORD; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit.
- p. Listen to how God responds. Psalm 143:8 Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.
- q. Pray for deliverance. Psalm 143:9 Rescue me from my enemies, LORD, for I hide myself in you.
- r. This is an acknowledgement that God is the only one who can bring relief. That is important because it's a declaration of faith.

- s. Seek God's wisdom, knowledge and leadership. **Psalm 143:10** Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.
- t. David is not aware that he has gotten out of the will of God somewhere along the way, but just in case he asks God to direct him so that he can get back on the right path. Good advice.
- u. So step one is to think positive thoughts.

## Step 2. Be God minded.

1. What do you think it means to be God minded?
2. **Isaiah 26:3** You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, all whose thoughts are fixed on You! (NLT)
3. Trusting in the Lord produces peace. And what is the secret to trusting in the Lord? We have to purposefully keep our thoughts fixed on God.
4. If we do not act purposefully, our minds will naturally gravitate toward the negative and the problem.
5. So what are some ways that we can keep our minds fixed on the Lord?
6. Meditate on God and his works.
7. Let's just kind of overload on Scripture for a moment. All NLT.
8. **Psalm 63:5-6** You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise You with songs of joy. **6** I lie awake thinking of You, meditating on You through the night.
9. **Psalm 77:12** They are constantly in my thoughts. I cannot stop thinking about Your mighty works.
10. **Psalm 119:15** I will study Your commandments and reflect on Your ways.
11. I point out again that all of these examples are purposefully done.
12. Purposefully fellowship with the Lord.
13. What does it mean to fellowship?
14. **John 16:7** However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) will not come to you [*into close fellowship with you*]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [*to be in close fellowship with you*]. (AMP)
15. So the second step is to be God minded.

## Step 3. Be God loves me minded.

1. **1 John 4:16** We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. (NLT)
2. We must constantly remind ourselves that the circumstances around us, whether good or bad, do not dictate whether or not God loves us.

3. That is so important because Satan will purposefully lie to us in times of difficulty and try and make us think that God doesn't love us.
4. Counselor during pain. It came out. If God loved me I wouldn't be facing this. I know God loves me, but I subconsciously was doubting that.
5. Recognize that because God loves us that fear has no place. **1 John 4:18** There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. (NIV)
6. Doesn't that describe exactly how Satan attempts to separate us from God's love? God doesn't love you he says.
7. God is punishing you for something you have done. You need to be afraid of God because he is mad at you.
8. The problem however is that Satan is vague when he lies. God is punishing you he says, but he doesn't tell you specifically what you have done.
9. That's how he operates. Vague when we haven't actually done anything wrong. If it's vague then don't believe it. No need to be afraid.
10. The Holy Spirit is specific. But even then we don't need to be afraid. Repent and move on. God loves you.
11. Be righteousness-conscious not sin-conscious.
12. **2 Corinthians 5:21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (NIV)
13. When we are in Christ, though we sin, we are not known by our sin, we are known by the righteousness that God provides.
14. Therefore, we are not to waste any time living under guilt and condemnation. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
15. Rebuke the enemy when what he tells you doesn't line up with scripture.

#### **Step 4. Have an encouraging mind.**

1. An encouraging mind has to do with how we think of others.

2. The person with the mind of Christ thinks positive, uplifting, edifying thoughts about others. But in order for us to think that way, our mindset has to be Christ like.
3. To exhort: to urge, to advise, and to admonish.
4. Primarily it has to do with encouraging others.
5. Everyone has enough problems already. We don't need to add to their troubles by tearing them down. We should build one another up in love. we can only do that when what we think of them is in line with the scripture.
6. **1 Corinthians 13:7** Love bears up under anything *and* everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [*without weakening*]. (AMP)
7. We are not walking in the Word when our thoughts are opposite of what it says. We are not walking in the Word if we are not thinking in the Word.
8. When we think of someone. When we pray for someone, we need to line our thoughts and prayers and words up with what the Word of God says and then we will begin to see a breakthrough.

### **Step 5. Develop a thankful mind.**

1. **Psalm 100:4** Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. (NIV)
2. What is the opposite of thanksgiving? Complaining. We open a lot of doors to the enemy when we choose to complain.
3. A powerful life cannot be lived without thanksgiving.
4. Complaining is a death principle. Think children of Israel.
5. Being thankful and saying so is a life principle.
6. If a person doesn't have a thankful heart (mind), thanksgiving will not come out of their mouth.
7. We are repeatedly told in the scripture to be thankful at all times.
8. **Hebrews 13:15** Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. (NIV)
9. Let's be clear though. Living this type of lifestyle is not automatic. In fact, living a life of thankfulness will require a sacrifice of praise. It will be a sacrifice.



10. Thankfulness applies not only to God, but to others. I think it's important that we express thanks to our families, to our friends, to people who serve us, even if they are getting paid to do so.
11. Thankful people are a joy to be around. Complaining people are a drain to be around.

## Step 6. Be Word minded.

1. Notice that the word Word is capitalized.
2. **John 5:38** And you have not His word (His thought) living in your hearts, because you do not believe *and* adhere to *and* trust in *and* rely on Him Whom He has sent. [*That is why you do not keep His message living in you, because you do not believe in the Messenger Whom He has sent.*] (AMP)
3. Jesus was correcting some unbelievers because they had not received him as Lord. What's interesting is that in verse 39 Jesus says you pour over the scriptures that testify about me, but yet you haven't come to me to receive eternal life.
4. Reading the word is good. But unless we internalize the Word. Making it a part of who we are. More than just words on a page but the bread of life that feeds every part of our being then the Word will not do us much good.
5. Broken record. Our connect groups are designed to get the Word inside us where the word can change us and mold us and shape us.
6. God has used people in my group so many times to bring something out of the word of God that hit me right between the eyes.
7. Their view of the word of God with the help of the Holy Spirit has changed my life.
8. The Word of God is the weapon with which we can defeat the lies of the enemy.
9. When Jesus was tempted for 40 days and 40 nights, he used the Word of God to defeat the lies of Satan.
10. If we will meditate on, and internalize the word, we are promised that we will prosper.
11. **Joshua 1:8** This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe *and* do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely *and* have good success. (AMP)
12. The Word of God brings healing. **Proverbs 4:20-22** My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. **21** Don't lose sight of them. Let



them penetrate deep into your heart, 22 for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. (NLT)

13. Hearing the word brings harvest. Mark 4:24 Then He added, "Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more. (NLT)

### Conclusion:

1. As we get ready to close this morning and then take communion in just a moment. I want to remind you of the steps necessary to have the mind of Christ.
2. Think positive thoughts.
3. Be God minded.
4. Be God loves me minded.
5. Be encouragement minded.
6. Develop a thankful mind.
7. Be Word minded.
8. We see every single one of those components at work in the life of Jesus while he was here on this earth.
9. This same Jesus who died for us to deliver us from our sins, is able to help us have a mindset that mirrors His.
10. As we prepare to hand out the elements of communion would you focus your mind on the goodness and greatness of God, and worship Him one more time?
11. Communion.