

# **CULTIVATING THE MIND OF CHRIST**



## **A Study of Philippians 2:5-11**

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

**Based on the study guide, “The Mind of Christ”, by T.W. Hunt and Claude V. King**

## **WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS GUIDE**

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# CULTIVATING THE MIND OF CHRIST

## BACKGROUND INFO On The Book Of Philippians (Jensen's Survey of the New Testament)

**SCRIPTURE: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus"  
Philippians 2:5**

The book of Philippians is the last of the four prison epistles written by Paul around A.D. 61-62.

It was written to the church at Philippi, which was about 10 yrs. old at the time Paul wrote this letter. Philippi was the first church of Europe (commonly referred to as the birthplace of European Christianity).

The book of Philippians has been called Paul's love letter to the saints because of its personal and informal style. One of its ministries is to rejuvenate the spiritual life of multitudes of Christians. It was written as an

- a. **Encouragement** to put Christ first in everyday living
- b. **Appeal** to beware and to correct spiritual problems
- c. **Instruction** in Christian doctrine

**The passage of scripture in Philippians 2:5-11** teaches truths about the Person and work of Christ. It is considered to be a *handbook of Christian living*, summing up Christian behavior in one opening appeal.

The book of Philippians is referred to as the "kenosis" passage, **named after the key Greek word "ekenosen" (emptied)**. The unstated question of the text is "of what did Christ empty Himself when He came to earth

- deity
- privileges
- independent exercise of some of His relative attributes (not my will, but thine be done)

In the midst of this pandemic, fake news, social media, Google, Reality TV, Self-Helps, and QAnon, it's hard to know who or what to believe or follow. Adding false teachers and prophets to the mix only serves to confuse people even more. The "absolute truth" nowadays seems to be "whatever fits your current situation".

In times past people used to believe that "pictures don't lie", but the advancement of technology and photo-shopping has proven that theory to be misleading.

Your situation is screaming louder and louder in your head!

Bills due	Eviction pending	Nowhere to turn
Health threats	Food Running low	Virtual Schooling
Unemployment	No Transportation	Political/Social Unrest

Trying to keep up with all this can be daunting, making a person feel as if they are spiraling out of control! With so much information overload, what is a person supposed to do?

Christians, are not immune to the ills of this present world. Like everyone else, Christians are in a battle. But the battle is not anything physical; it is a spiritual one. God's Word warns us,

***For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Ephesians 6:12***

All soldiers preparing for battle, must make sure they are **armed with the proper equipment**. Not only must soldiers be armed "with" the proper equipment, but they must also be **"trained"** on how to properly use it.

**So, how do we defend ourselves and prepare for battle against this enemy we cannot see?**

Scripture further reminds us that **"the weapons of our warfare are not carnal**, but mighty through God to **the pulling down of strong holds;**" II Corinthians 10:4.

Another aspect soldiers must keep in mind when facing battles; they must **know** their enemy.

1 Peter 5:8 urges us to **"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"**.

Being vigilant means soldiers must keep careful watch for possible danger or difficulties.

Over the course of the next few weeks, our study will focus on *"Cultivating The Mind of Christ"*, to help us examine what is needed to be properly equipped and ready to do battle.

The study guide: ***The Mind of Christ***, by T. W. Hunt and Claude V. King, is a study of Philippians 2:5-11, which highlights the characteristics of Christ and challenges all Christians to live "Christ-like".

As we will learn, "Cultivating the mind of Christ" is a lifelong journey. This study will, hopefully, add to your arsenal of weapons to help you determine who/what to listen to and who/what to follow.

## **GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THIS STUDY**

**Studying requires more than just reading. It requires spending time meditating on and examining what has been read against what we currently know or believe. For Christians, studying requires another, more crucial aspect in the process. It requires that we examine what we have read against what we know or believe and compare them to the Word of God. Without that last (and most crucial) stage of the process we would be lost in our own understanding (or misunderstanding).**

**In order to gain the most from this study, participants are encouraged to follow these suggested steps:**

- \*Read through study materials prior to each lesson**
- \*Read scripture passages (use bible translation that helps you understand)**
- \*Pray; ask God to reveal to you areas that need to be developed (cultivated) in your life**
- \*Meditate; take time to listen to the Holy Spirit's response to your prayer**
- \*Write down what God has given you; answer the questions in the study guide**
- \*Allow the Holy Spirit to begin changing those areas in your life that do not reflect the Mind of Christ**
- \*Share in the discussion as the Spirit leads you; sharing your experiences could help someone else who might be experiencing a similar situation**

# MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

## CULTIVATING THE MIND OF CHRIST

“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God”  
Philippians 2:6

### UNIT IV

#### Virtues of Godly Wisdom: Christ’s Lifestyle Christ-like Characteristic: Single-Minded

##### 1. How do you define single-minded?

Jesus had one single purpose when He came to earth and took on human form; that purpose was to “be about the Father’s business”. He did not allow anything or anyone to distract him from his purpose.

##### 2. How do you define lifestyle?

#### \*CLEANSING YOUR MIND WITH GOD’S WORD

God wants you to become like His son Jesus and He is ready to help you.

##### 3. In reading the accounts of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness, we get a glimpse of what His thinking is. What does Matthew 4:1-11 say was Jesus’ response to Satan?

Jesus quoted scripture to battle Satan’s attacks. We must hide God’s word in our hearts so that when Satan launches attacks against us, we will be able to stand against them like Jesus did.

##### 4. According to Psalm 119:11 why should we become familiar with what God has said in the Bible?

#### -God’s Word Cleanses

The Word of God has a cleansing effect on the mind. Our minds are so mixed with the world’s way of thinking that we need to be reoriented to God’s way of thinking. God’s word washes away wrong or impure things in our minds and replaces those with right ways of thinking.

John 15:3

John 17:17

Ephesians 5:26

#### -Humanism Hindered Me

Humanism teaches that we have a capacity for self-realization through reason. It glorifies what man can do apart from God.

##### 5. What does Philippians 2:6 reveal about Christ’s lifestyle? Compare that to Matthew 8:20

Christ was God in human form; He was “equal” to God; Before coming to earth He had all of heaven. However, He did not live a lavish lifestyle on earth (Matthew 8:20).

##### 6. Read I Corinthians 2:16 and identify whether the two statements below are God’s perspective or humanism’s perspective.

- I can develop godly virtues in my life by study and hard work**
- Godly virtues are a gift to me at spiritual birth and show when I allow Christ to live His life in me**

Knowledge does help. When we achieve certain things in the world system, that act of achieving becomes a part of our unconscious mind. These Godly virtues cannot be developed by hard work. We need God to work in us to allow Christ's presence and mind to show through in our lives.

**-A Special Vow**

Certain aspects of humanism are radically rooted in us. We must be determined to saturate our minds with God's way of thinking.

**7. The following are some ways you can allow God the opportunity to cleanse your mind with His word. Which items do you do already? Which ones do you sense God wants you to devote more time and attention?**

- Daily read a part of God's Word**
- Study passages closely to see what God may want you to believe or do in response to His Word**
- Study related topics in Scripture to understand more clearly what God is saying on a particular subject.**
- Memorize verses, passages, chapters, and even books of the Bible**
- Meditate on God's Word. Think about what He is saying to you through it**
- Pray through passages of Scripture discussing with God the implications for your Life**
- Discuss God's Word with other believers. God may give you insight through a fellow believer**

**\*PURE**

In studying the virtues of Godly wisdom found in James 3:17, there are three aspects to consider

- 1. What it is (Christ-like Virtue)**
- 2. What it is not (Satanic Opposite)**
- 3. How it can be distorted (Perversion)**

Christians must be careful in their attempts to become mature on their own that they do not adopt Satan's "perverted" version of these virtues (i.e. pure vs puritanical).

**8. God wants Christians to be able to discern between Christ-like virtues, Satanic opposites, and perversions. Review the chart below and allow the Holy Spirit to help you to discern which aspect of the virtue you possess and how God wants to move in your life concerning that virtue.**

<b>CHRIST-LIKE VIRTUE</b>	<b>SATANIC OPPOSITE</b>	<b>PERVERSION</b>
Pure	Lustful	Puritanical
Peaceable	Fussy	Compromising
Gentle	Harsh	Unkind Restraint
Entreatable	Unapproachable	Yes-Person
Merciful	Merciless	Indulgent
Fruitful	Fruitless	Fruit-Obsessed
Steadfast	Wavering	Inflexible
Honest	Lying	Brutal

**-Pure**

**9. How do you define “pure”?**

God has given Christians a perfect example of purity in the Lord Jesus. But Satan has a perversion of purity.

**10. What is your response when you see someone behaving “less than Christ-like”?**

**-Jesus is the Standard**

The Bible has a purpose in telling us to “consider” Jesus (Hebrews 3:1) and to “fix our eyes” on Him (Hebrews 12:2). Jesus was absolutely pure (I Peter 1:19; I John 3:5); He was not puritanical. He was called a friend of sinners. He accepted invitations to eat with all kinds of people, yet never yielded to any impurity.

**11. According to the following scriptures how did Jesus live such a clean life?**

**-Luke 2:49**

**-John 5:19-23**

**-John 17:4**

**-John 4:34**

**-John 6:38**

**\*PEACEABLE**

**12. Peaceable describes a way of acting. The opposite of peaceable is fussy. Satan can pervert the act of seeking peace into compromise. How does Matthew 10:34-36 describe Jesus’ warning about peace?**

Even though Jesus was “peaceful”, He did not compromise His expectations to maintain peace.

**13. How do you define peaceable?**

**-Jesus was Peaceable**

When a quarrel broke out among his disciples, Jesus remained peaceable (Matthew 20:20-28). Our world is full of quarrels and war. Peace comes when we serve one another rather than seek to serve our own selfish wants and desires. Competition in the body of Christ does not reflect Jesus’ quality of being peaceable.

**14. If everyone in the body of Christ were to live like Jesus, our attributes would complement each other. How does Ephesians 2:10 support that statement?**

**\*GENTLE, ENTREATABLE, AND MERCIFUL**

**-Gentle**

**15. Read Matthew 16:15-23 and discuss how it describes gentleness in action.**

**16. How would you define gentle?**

**-Entreatable**

An entreatable person does not mind being asked to do a favor for someone. There are people who retreat from every opportunity to serve. Christians must guard against becoming “unapproachable” or even becoming “yes-men”. Christians should seek God’s direction in deciding what to do or which way to go.



**17. Jesus demonstrated what it means to be entreatable. Based on the following scriptures how do you define entreatable?**

**Matthew 15:21-28**

**Mark 10:48-49**

**John 11:4**

**Matthew 8:5-7**

**-Merciful**

**18. How would you describe merciful?**

Mercy is often equated with compassion. Jesus demonstrated compassion for the poor, hurting, and the suffering. Christians are rarely merciless, however, without proper understanding, they may fall into Satan's perverted trick by becoming

**19. How does Luke 23:33-34 demonstrate the ultimate form of mercy?**

Jesus was crucified for the sins of the world. Before surrendering his life, Jesus forgave those who crucified Him on the cross.

**\*FRUITFUL, STEADFAST, AND HONEST**

**-Fruitful**

**20. Fruitful can be applied to the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) or it can mean the fruits of our labor (James 3:17). How would you define fruitful?**

**21. How do Christians demonstrate fruitfulness in their lives?**

**-Steadfast**

**Jesus was steadfast. Once He set His mind to do something, nothing could deter Him from carrying it out.**

**22. Read Matthew 26:39, 42 and define steadfast**

Jesus prayed three times to God concerning his pending death on the cross while His disciples slept. Despite the disciples' failure to remain awake, Jesus continued in prayer and submitted Himself to the Father's will.

**-Honest**

**23. How does John 14:6 describe Jesus?**

Jesus is God personified in the flesh. He is truth; no-one can attribute any lie, or play-acting to Him.

**24. Real honesty can be sincere, courageous, and bold with genuine integrity without being harsh or brutal. Read Luke 11:37-54 and define honest.**

# MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

## CULTIVATING THE MIND OF CHRIST

“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God”  
Philippians 2:6

### UNIT V

## Fruit of the Spirit: Christ’s Lifestyle

### CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTERISTIC: Single-Minded

The "fruits of the spirit" are characteristics of a Christian. These are the attitudes, behaviors and traits that someone who believes in Jesus Christ should show. It is the result of the Holy Spirit's presence and working in the lives of maturing believers

#### 1. How would you explain Philippians 2:6?

Jesus and God are one; therefore, it would not be robbery for Jesus to consider himself equal to God (John 17:22; John 1:1)

#### 2. How would you describe Christ’s lifestyle?

**LIFESTYLE DEFINED:** the way in which a person or group lives.

Christ lived a life of purity and purpose. He was single-minded, in that His purpose was to “do the Father’s will”. In Lesson II we learned that Christ’s one great passion was “to do the Father’s will”.

Luke 2:49

John 4:34

John 6:38

Christ exhibited the Fruit of the Spirit in His lifestyle (the way He lived)

#### \*LOVE

#### 3. I John 4:8 states “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” How would you define love?

**LOVE is defined as** an intense feeling of deep affection.

#### **Different types of love**

- a. **AGAPE** : God's love is referred to as agape love which is the highest form of love that is selfless and sacrificial
- b. **Eros**: a physical form of **love** shared between a husband and wife. God created and instituted marriage.
- c. **Phileo**: Phileo love is **brotherly love**. This type of love is most often shown within close friendships. As Christians and followers of Jesus Christ, the *Bible* tells us that the world will know us by our love.
- d. **Storge**: love between family members.

John 3:16

John 15:13

**4. According to Mark 12:30-31, what are the two greatest commandments?**

God's love surpasses human knowledge. (Ephesians 3:19). Love is a choice, not a feeling. True love is based on a person's character, not an emotion.

Christ's love should be the motivating factor in the life of His followers.

**\*JOY and PEACE**

**-Joy**

**5. How would you define joy?**

The Greek word for *joy* is *chara*. Joy is the natural reaction to the work of God, whether promised or fulfilled. Christian joy does not depend on outward circumstances; it is more than temporal pleasure. Jesus' joy was based on a deep reality of His being (who He is).

John 15:11

Hebrews 12:2

**6. Is it possible to have joy in the midst of trials and tragedy?**

**-Peace**

**7. How would you define peace?**

*PEACE is defined as:* freedom from disturbance; tranquility.

Peace is resting in the character and achievements of Christ. The peace mentioned in the fruit of the spirit is an "inner peace". Jesus' demeanor was never troubled by his circumstances.

**8. In John 14:27 what is the "peace" that Jesus gives?**

We have the peace that Jesus gives when we surrender our burdens and cares to the Lord.

**9. How is the peace that Jesus gives different from what the world offers?**

Worldly peace is based on circumstances. The Peace that Jesus gives is present whether or not everything is going perfectly in our lives.

**\*LONGSUFFERING and GENTLENESS**

**-Longsuffering**

**10. How would you define longsuffering?**

*LONGSUFFERING* is putting up with people and circumstances even to the point of near exhaustion (suffering for a long time).

Mark 9:34

10:35-45

Luke 22:24-27

**-Gentleness**

**11. How would you define Gentleness?**

Gentleness is not weakness, but strength under control. It describes an attitude or disposition that is more than action. Christians must guard against becoming too soft or hard hearted.

Isaiah 42:3

Matthew 12:20

## **\*GOODNESS and FAITH**

### **-Goodness**

#### **12. How would you define Goodness?**

Goodness involves ways of behaving, however, the outward manifestation of goodness comes from the heart

Matthew 25:21, 23

Matt 12:33-35.

### **-Faith**

#### **13. How would you define Faith?**

Faith is necessary to our salvation; we must believe in Jesus Christ in order to receive salvation.

## **\*MEEKNESS and TEMPERANCE**

### **-Meekness**

#### **14. How would you define Meekness?**

Meekness is an active and deliberate acceptance of undesirable circumstances that are wisely seen by the individual as only part of a larger picture.

Meekness is coupled with humility (or lowly in heart; Matthew 11:29). Meekness, like gentleness, is not weakness, but strength under control.

#### **15. How would you define Temperance?**

*TEMPERANCE is defined as:* self-restraint; the power and decision to abstain

#### **16. How can we demonstrate temperance in our prayer? Bible Study? Witness?**

Mark 1:35

Matthew 27:11-14