

PHILIPPIANS HANDOUT

THE MIND OF ADAM VS. THE MIND OF CHRIST

ADAM	CHRIST
Made in the divine image	Is the form & very essence of God
Thought it a prize to be grasped at to be as God	Thought it not a prize to be grasped at to be as God
Aspired to a reputation	Made Himself of no reputation
Spurned the role of God's servant	Took upon Himself the role of a servant (slave)
Seeking to be like God	Coming in the likeness of men
And being made a man (of dust, now doomed)	And being found in appearance as a man
He exalted himself	He humbled Himself
And became disobedient unto death	And became obedient to the point of death
He was condemned and disgraced	God highly exalted Him & gave Him the name and position of Lord

Chart by Dean Niforatos

MORE LESSONS ABOUT THE MIND

1. **A spiritually renewed mind brings an agreeable spirit to human relationships (4:2).**
This does not preclude conflict, but a mutual commitment to the mindset of Christ produces a mood and manner conducive to resolving conflict through the love of Christ.
2. **The kingdom mindset learns to unite in purpose and objective with others who are serving Christ (2:1-4).**
This speaks again to the issue of unity, not losing the diversity of varied viewpoints. We can and should work together with others to advance the gospel and laid aside personal agendas.
3. **Mental discipline is called for if the mind is to be kept tuned to kingdom values.**
This begins with **disallowing** any preoccupation with things **unworthy** in a believer's thoughts (4:8, 9). This doesn't mean that momentary bad thoughts will never occur, but rather that these will not be allowed any serious **consideration** or **abiding presence**.
4. **Kingdom thinkers are confident, free, and gracious people who know how to think like Christ and live in His power:**
 - a) with confidence **for the future** (1:6);
 - b) with confidence of **God's purpose**, notwithstanding present trials (1:12-18);
 - c) with joy born of the certainty of God's **enabling Spirit** (3:3-4);
 - d) with confidence of **God's sufficiency** whatever the need (4:11-13, 19).

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SOURCES OF JOY SEEN IN PHILIPPIANS

"Joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel" (1:5).

The Gospel brings us into fellowship with other believers, with whom we share so much.
Our fellow-Christians are a real source of joy.

"Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice" (1:18).

Preaching Christ in a lost world is to be a first priority of believers.
We can find joy not just in our own sharing of the Lord, but in the ministries of others.

"Make my joy complete by being likeminded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose" (2:2).

We also find joy in the unity and harmony of the body of Christ,
a unity which we can achieve when our attitude mirrors the humility of Christ.

"Rejoice in the Lord" (3:1).

The Christian's ultimate source of joy is our Lord Himself.
Because we are permanently united to Him, nothing can threaten the wellspring of our joy.

Chart by Dean Niforatos

SEEKING CHRIST

The book of Philippians teaches that the Christian life focuses on seeking Christ and the pursuit of intimacy with God. It is devoting oneself to knowing Jesus Christ, and one measure of spiritual maturity is the degree to which this pursuit becomes our consuming focus and desire.

Seek Christ above all (1:21; 3:7, 8)

and FIND righteousness in Christ & the power of His resurrection (3:9-11)

Seek Christ-like humility (2:5-7)

and FIND God's will in the believer (2:12, 13)

Seek a divinely appointed goal (3:14)

and FIND the prize of eternal salvation (3:14)

Seek all things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, virtuous, & praiseworthy (4:8)

and FIND the presence of the God of peace (4:9)

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