

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
Lindale, Texas

Palm Sunday  
March 25, 2018  
Philippians 2:5-11  
The Reverend John P. Carr

The Mind of Christ Jesus

There is a Chinese proverb that says:

*If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person.  
If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house.  
If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation.  
If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.<sup>1</sup>*

You see, it all begins at home and in us.

*If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person.*

On the other hand, if there is anger, blame, rage in us then there is not beauty. If there is violence in our hearts and in the lives of our children then there is no peace in the home or in the land.

This weekend there were marches against gun violence but perhaps more to the point, the marches should be about mental violence, anger, violent video games and media. The marches might be better directed toward the causes of violence in the hearts of the bombers and shooters than at their ultimate weapons. The problem is that the perpetrators do not have *light in their souls*. Whether rooted in troubled hearts, broken hearts or minds, there is no light in their souls. We grieve not only for their victims but for them as well.

Jesus said *"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life,"*<sup>2</sup> that he is *"the Light of the World."*<sup>3</sup> God tells the truth and keeps his promises. What we need is the light of Christ Jesus in our lives, in our hearts. This is what

Paul was saying when he said we need “*to have the mind of Christ Jesus.*” We need to have the light of Jesus in our hearts by having “*the mind of Christ*” and living with Jesus as our guiding light.

When we invite Jesus into our hearts, into our lives, then we have the light of Christ in us. When we relinquish our hearts, souls and minds to Jesus we are truly a changed person. We are a new creation. We are no longer ruled by our wills and passions but by the heart of Jesus. We have chosen to give up our way for his way and become of the same mind as Christ Jesus.

This can be a very dramatic moment when we give our lives to Christ or over a period of time. In this moment we are united with Christ and in this union we begin to experience the basic reality of salvation. A new relationship full of hope, love, joy, and commitment is born. Some refer to this experience as Jesus did as being “born again.” This is because at the point of this new relationship we are truly reborn as a new person with a new way of looking at the world through the lens of “*the mind of Christ Jesus*”.

When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior he becomes our guiding light. We are saved from darkness by the brilliance of his light. In this newfound loving relationship we find not the restriction we had feared but instead freedom of life by living with an attitude that is like “*the mind of Christ.*”

This new relationship brings challenges but also new ways of viewing the world through the knowledge of the available salvation of Christ. There are real benefits, real fruit in this relationship because we are changed.

The fruit of the Spirit Paul listed in Galatians as “*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control,*” become a part of our lives. Gal. 5:22

What do we get from a loving relationship?

We experience a sense of comfort, safety, reassurance and encouragement. How much more do we experience this when we realize that Jesus loves us so much that he went before us, he died for us, he has stood between all who believe in him and judgement.

We experience the love of Christ and recognize his compassion and tenderness for us and begin to experience something that is beyond ourselves and beyond the ways of this world. This is truly an everlasting love, a love without end that we experience.

When we are in “*the mind of Christ*” we naturally live a life that reflects an attitude that is attuned to that of Jesus. We naturally live a life of humility and love for others. The concept of living life with a servant nature is no longer foreign but natural.

There are no longer strangers surrounding us but neighbors who we have not yet met. Their needs are our needs, our love is shared with them, our compassion guides us to help them where they need that help. We have become the hands of Christ in their lives *because* we have the mind of Christ in ours.

Jesus gave us the great example of his love. He was sent by his Father to be one of us. He put on the dirty rags of humanity because he loves us. He experienced the worst that could be thrown at a first century person, even to the point of the humiliation and the torture of dying on a cross. He did this for many reasons and one was to demonstrate his

obedience to his Father. Jesus showed us how to love, how to obey, how to give up what may seem important to us for something greater.

Because of his example of love, he confirmed that through his obedience he was worthy of our love and trust. We now hold him up above all and at the name of Jesus every knee will bow on heaven and earth. Jesus showed the way to salvation is by following him, by adopting “*the mind of Christ*” in all that we do.

We will all meet Jesus one day. By embracing the mind of Christ today, by carrying the light of Christ in our hearts, we will be prepared for that moment.

Amen

1. “I’ve Been Thinking” Maria Shriver, p. 21
2. John 14:6
3. John 8:12

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and  
every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.