

“We have The Mind of Christ”  
I Corinthians 1:13-18

This passage deals with what it means to have the mind of Christ. To have the mind of Christ is essential if the Corinthian Christians are going to not survive, but thrive in the midst of a religiously unfriendly environment. Let’s discuss the correlations to our own culture.

**Q:** As a reminder, Paul is dealing with some religious arrogance in that early church, confronting those who think they have arrived spiritually and are able to tell others how to live their lives. How would having the mind of Christ be a solution to this church’s problem?

A: To have the mind of Christ means that we don’t think so lowly of ourselves that we think we can’t impact others AND it means that we can’t be self-righteous, thinking we have everything we need by obtaining it through our own efforts, logic and intelligence. When we see that true spiritual understanding is a gift from the Holy Spirit (vs. 13) and comes through depending on Him.

**Q:** On the scale below, which side would you tend to fall on either now or before you met Christ? Would you be willing to share why?

Insecurity and fear shaped	<b>The mind of Christ</b>	___trust in one’s own
By longing and anxiety		strength, self-righteous

A: Let the discussion flow here. You may want to start by sharing your own thoughts on this. Based on who we are, we will tend one direction or another. But if any one of these extremes is a real challenge for us, we most likely have some stuff that needs to be dealt with. When we don’t, we carry an unhealthy attitude that negatively affects the church like it was the Corinthian church. Paul is dealing there with people who were self-righteous.

**Q:** In verse 14 Paul uses the word “Psychikos” to describe the natural man. Unspiritual is not the best translation because there are

“spiritual” people who do not have the mind of Christ. The word means soul as it is in its raw form, making decisions from either the emotion or logic. So why can’t the natural man understand God and His actions?

A: They are trying to understand God without the gift of His spirit who explains the mind of Christ. Without the Spirit we cannot comprehend who God is and why He acts the way He does. Logical and philosophical (reason based on finite experience) attempts to attain understanding of an infinite God just don’t work. Man cannot reach God on his own.

**Q:** Paul then uses the word “Pneumatikos” to describe the spiritual man. This word means the Holy Spirit or breath of God. The spiritual man has God’s spirit gifted to them to give them what they need to live for Him as well as give them understanding. So what does it mean that they can “evaluate all things”?

A: The ability to judge from God’s perspective on matters of church conflict, social issues like euthanasia, abortion, marriage etc. are only possible for those who have the mind of Christ.

**Q:** Some people who claim to “have the mind of Christ” are mean and condescending toward the world for not acting Christian. Based on this passage why do you think they don’t have the mind of Christ?

A: To have the mind of Christ requires that “I” get out of the way and allow God to speak to me through His word and reveal His heart. It also means that I share the same burden that Jesus had to love those who didn’t understand. When I know that people, who don’t have the Spirit of God, can’t comprehend the heart of God, I can give them space and can be gentle in my approach with them. I can still be resolved on what I believe to be the truth, but I must take into account that some people really don’t understand why Christians think the way they do.

**Q:** How could the problems of the church (either in Corinth or Crossroads) be solved by each of the members having the mind of Christ?

A: We would value one another. We would allow for diversity with unity. We would lay down our egos’ and seek the truth from the Word, being willing to change and grow accordingly.