

The Biblical Christian Identity
“The Christian Mind” 1 Corinthians 2:9-16

I could have titled this sermon, “the Mind of Christ” but I called it, “The Christian Mind” because I wanted to communicate that if we have “the Mind of Christ” we also have “the Christian Mind.” For us they are the same thing. Christ & Christian are related words.

The passage we are considering today makes it clear that a truly “Christian” mind is IMPOSSIBLE for an unregenerate person. If we are strictly Biblical with our definitions, it is possible and even likely to be a disciple and not be born-again. But it is impossible to be a true Christian without the New Birth –

³ **Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3 (NKJV)**

I. *There are things unregenerate eyes CANNOT SEE, no matter what the level of study or achievement -*

⁹ **But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9**

1. *Nicodemus was a learned man, but without the New Birth, brought about by God’s Spirit, he could not SEE, nor could he enter God’s Kingdom –*

3 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. John 3:1 (NKJV)

A. *Pharisees, the strictest of the religious Jews of Jesus’ day. Most, of them fought against Jesus. Nicodemus was not one who fought with Jesus.*

B. *A ruler of the Jews, meaning a member of the Sanhedrin, the Seventy*

- *To be a member of the Sanhedrin you were supposed to be a Biblical scholar.*
- *You had to speak multiple languages fluently.*
- *You were considered by your peers, the-best-of-the-best-of-the-best!*

³ **Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3 (NKJV)**

⁵ **Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. John 3:5 (NKJV)**

⁷ **Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ John 3:7 (NKJV)**

Yet, Nicodemus fell short in Christ’s eyes, at least for a time because he (Nicodemus) was not born-again.

2. *These things that CANNOT be seen are revealed to God's people –*

¹⁰ But God has revealed **them to us** through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2:10 (NKJV)

Note the Corinthians were not a crowd of accomplished Nicodemus types, no they were ORDINARY people –

²⁶ For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence. ³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—³¹ that, as it is written, "*He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.*" 1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (NKJV)

Note in verse :30 what Christ is for us, as a Prophet He is wisdom, as a Priest He is righteousness, as a King He is sanctification, and all these things together redemption.

II. *We only know the things of God through the Spirit of God –*

¹⁰ But God has revealed **them** to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 1 Corinthians 2:10-12 (NKJV)

1. *Human beings can make disciples and baptize with water –*

¹⁹ **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** ²⁰ **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.** Amen. Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)

A. *This is our duty!*

B. *A disciple is a learner –*

²⁰ **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;... Matthew 28:20 A**

C. *We baptize our babies, and we can start teaching them even before they are born.*

⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NKJV)

2. *We teach, we baptize, but God gives life, God / Christ baptizes with the Holy Spirit –*

⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. ⁷ So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. 1 Corinthians 3:6–7 (NKJV)

³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." John 1:33–34 (NKJV)

3. *Because only God's Spirit gives true vision and understand, you can have disciples, learners who walk away –*

⁶⁰ Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"

⁶¹ When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, **"Does this offend you? ⁶² What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe."** For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He said, **"Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."**

⁶⁶ From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. John 6:60–66 (NKJV)

III. *These are among those who consider the things of God "foolishness" because they do not understand –*

¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:13-14 (NKJV)

1. *This is WHY some who should be more learned just don't get it, while other's mere "babes" get it –*

¹⁴ Then *the blind and the lame* came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant ¹⁶ and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?"

And Jesus said to them, **"Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?'"** Matthew 21:14–16 (NKJV)

Were the children praising Jesus smarter or more educated than the chief priests and scribes?

NO!

But God's Spirit made the ALIVE! The recognized Jesus because they were born again by the power of God's Spirit!

2. *John the Baptist had this even in the womb of his mother Elizabeth –*

¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. Luke 1:15 (NKJV)

⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Luke 1:41–44 (NKJV)

IV. *In these things we see the importance of the word "Christian" if we understand the mind of Christ –*

¹⁶ For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:9–16 (NKJV)

1. Note what 1 Corinthians 2:16 says, it says, "But we have the mind of Christ."

A. It does NOT say, "we have the mind of Jesus, the Savior"

B. It does NOT say, we have the mind or minds of disciples – learners!

C. It definitely does NOT say we have the minds of scholars –

...**We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, ... 1 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV)**

2. *The mind of Christ connects us not only to Jesus, but to the Holy Spirit, Who we need just as much as we need Jesus. Christians are not just followers of Jesus, but the WORD Christian means we are little anointed ones! It implies the Holy Spirit's Work in a way disciple does not -*

¹⁰ But God has revealed *them* to us through His **Spirit**. For the **Spirit** searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the **Spirit of God**.

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the **Spirit who is from God**, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches **but which the Holy Spirit teaches**, comparing **spiritual things** with **spiritual**. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the **Spirit of God**, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are **spiritually** discerned. ¹⁵ But he who is **spiritual** judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one.

See how much "Spirit" is used in these verses, we need to have God's Spirit to know God and the spiritual things of God, Christian implies the work of God's Spirit, Whom Christ pours out on us -

Remember, Christ is a title, meaning Anointed One, there were three anointed offices, which correspond to how we were created, and need to be recreated in God's image, Christian implies that recreation is knowledge, righteousness & holiness -

Prophet – to restore our mind / knowledge –

¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Colossians 3:10 (NKJV)

Priest -to restore our conscience / righteousness & King – to restore our heart / holiness –

²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV)

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