

THE MIND OF CHRIST IN ALL THINGS

FACILITATOR GUIDE

NOTE TO FACILITATORS: Text or email this reminder to your group this week:

REMEMBER TO TAKE ON THE MIND OF CHRIST THIS WEEK!

—1 Corinthians 2:16

CPC HAPPENINGS... (Leaders, please share with your group. We want to do everything to keep people connected to the entire church family.)

There's lots of things happening at Connection Point!

VISION SUNDAY

Sunday, January 31

SPECIAL EVENT: NIGHT OF PRAYER

Sunday, January 31 6 PM

SUPER BOWL FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, February 7 For more info and to register, visit yourcpc.church/events

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Sunday, February 21, 1:30-3:30 PM Register now online for childcare. yourcpc.church/events

KIDS NIGHT OUT

Even kids need a night out! Parents, drop off your kids Friday, February 12 at 5:30 pm at the Jackson Civic Center for food, fun, games, prizes, and oh so much more! Dinner is pizza, drinks and of course, dessert. Cost is \$5 per child at the door with cash or card. All kids ages 4yrs to 6th grade are welcome! Register your kids online at yourcpc.church/events

DON'T MISS ANYTHING HAPPENING AT CPC!

A BRAND NEW YOU

Did you make any new year resolutions?

Are you still keeping your resolution or have you already abandoned the cause?

A resolution (in this sense of the word) is a “fixed purpose or determination of mind; as a resolution to reform our lives; a resolution to undertake an expedition.” So you can say it is to have a determined mind, set on improving our lives. Look what Paul said about improving our lives.

2 Corinthians 5:17—Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

What kind of “new creation” is Paul referring to here? [Paul is referring to a new person on the inside. Once a person accepts Christ, a new way of thinking and responding to life’s challenges emerges in the heart.]

Often our society praises the spirit of individualism and independent thought. Individualism promotes the idea that the individual is of primary importance. Nothing should stop the pursuit of anyone wishing to fulfill himself through personal freedoms, wants and desires.

In what ways has Hollywood promoted the spirit of individualism? [Often the main characters of movies are pictured as independent, free-thinking men or women with strong personalities that are determined to see their cause through to the bitter end. Even when they are rescuing others, they are pictured as having a character that relies solely on their own wit and cunning to get the job done.]

Do Hollywood characters give thought to the consequences of their actions? [No! A movie hero can blow up a gas station and there is no mention of the consequences of those actions.]

Do you think these images have an impact on our society today?

Now take a look at today’s key verse:

1 Corinthians 2:16—For who has known the Lord’s mind, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Does this verse promote the free-thinking individualistic mindset? [No]

If not, what does it say to us? [As a Christian (little Christ) we should respond to life’s challenges in the same way that Jesus responded. Our actions should imitate the mind (thought patterns and priorities) of Christ.]

BEING REAL

1 Corinthians 2:1-5—When I came to you, brothers and sisters, announcing the mystery of God to you, I did not come with brilliance of speech or wisdom. ² I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not be based on human wisdom but on God's power. ⁶ We do, however, speak a wisdom among the mature, but not a wisdom of this age, or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

How does Paul describe his approach to the people in Corinth? [He didn't flaunt his brilliance or wisdom. He just came as one of them.]

What did Paul mean when he said he "decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified?" [What "extra" knowledge he had, he just kept to himself. BUT, if you want to talk about Jesus and the pure message of the Gospel, he was all in!]

What is the difference between being "impressive" and being "influential?" [You don't necessarily have to be the smartest person in the room to have a positive influence on others around you. Everyone can have an influence.]

According to Paul, which is more beneficial—eloquent, persuasive words or a demonstration of the power of Christ working in you?

What is the benefit of the demonstration? [When you demonstrate the correct way to respond to the everyday hazards of life, others can easily see the difference between your behavior and their own.]

Having great knowledge is certainly not a bad thing. Knowing when to use it, does however, take some wisdom. Being smart in and of itself is not a guarantee that you are beyond making bad choices. When Paul went to Athens, he used his great intellect to try to win the philosophers and knowledgeable teachers of the day. But approaching them from the standpoint of intellect failed. So, instead, Paul came to Corinth with a much more humble approach.

King Solomon was known as the wisest man in all the known world. Yet, even he couldn't save himself from his own bad decisions. Intellect may fail, but the power of God inside you will never let you down!

NATURAL VS. SPIRITUAL

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)— The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

According to this verse, what often happens when you try to explain the things of God to an unsaved person? [They don't understand it. They think it is a joke.]

So we understand that there is a natural way to way to make decisions—those that seem right to us—and a spiritual way to make decisions—the way that God leads us. Sometimes God's way also makes sense in the natural, but sometimes the priorities of God are in opposition to what makes good sense to us. Let's look for a moment at just one instance when God's logic doesn't match that of our natural logic—TITHING.

Tithing is the teaching that we should give 10% of our income to God. This is an ordinance taught in the Bible and supported by Connection Point Church. We believe that God blesses those who make this commitment to Him and supplies their needs in times of lack.

How much sense does giving 10% of your money to the church make when you barely have enough to pay your bills?

Is it a priority of God's? [Yes, it is supported in the Bible. (Malachi 3:10, Leviticus 27:30, 1 Corinthians 16:2)]

Do you believe that God has a ability to provide for you? [Most of us would agree that God has the ability, but we wonder, will He? God invites you to put Him to the test. Malachi 3:10— Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this way," says the Lord of Armies. "See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.]

When we fear giving, are we operating from a mind in the "natural" or the "mind of Christ?" [We are engaging in a natural mindset that tells us there won't be enough if we give it all away.]

Tithing is just one example how God's thinking can be in contrast to what makes good sense to us. So, how can mere mortals living in the natural take on and operate with the mind of Christ in all things? **PRACTICE**

If a person hasn't ridden a bicycle for many years, they still maintain the ability to ride. Why? It's called muscle memory. According to the dictionary, the definition of muscle memory is "the ability to reproduce a particular movement without conscious thought, acquired as a result of frequent repetition of that movement." A Christian who consistently seeks to understand the priorities of God and practices making choices based on God's desires will discover a shrinking of their own selfish will and an increased ability to naturally make decisions with the mind of Christ! WHEW! That's a really big sentence that simply means: It gets easier the more that you know Him!

LEARNING THE MIND OF CHRIST

JESUS CHOSE. We need to practice making the kind of choices that reflect the priorities of Jesus.

JESUS WITHDREW. We have to withdraw from the world's system so we will not make worldly decisions. He stopped to consider the will of God in His situation.

JESUS PRAYED. Jesus often went alone to spend time in prayer. As we make decisions, we should first of all ask God for the wisdom that only He can give.

JESUS OBEYED. We should have an attitude that we will always obey the directives and guidance of God in making our decisions; that is settled ahead of time.

Work daily to have the MIND OF CHRIST IN ALL THINGS!

PRAYER TIME

- Thank God for new mindset that He has placed in you.
- Ask God continue helping you to use His Spirit to guide your choices and decisions.
- Ask God to help you discern when you need to keep quiet and just demonstrate His goodness to others rather than argue to convince them.
- If you have a particular prayer request for a decision you need to make, feel free to share your request with your small group family. Pray for one another to further develop the "mind of Christ" in their daily choices.