



Go for God!

“LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU!”

Philippians 2:1-11

> **LET US HAVE THREE MINDS, IF YOU DON'T MIND:**

#1 – HAVE A MIND FOR FELLOWSHIP! (v1-4)

- **Observe 7 thoughts of mindful/thoughtful fellowship:**

(The term “if” in this passage means *there is and should be* if it is not.)

#1 – Consolation in Christ – The Greek word is *paraklesis* meaning *to draw near, to comfort*, which Christ and the Holy Spirit do for us always!

#2 – Comfort of love – This is speaking of God’s “*agape*” love.

- **Unger defines this love in the life of the believer powerfully**, he writes, “Love is the preeminent virtue inculcated and produced by Christianity. The whole law is summed up in love, not in the sense of rendering all other requirements as inconsequential, but in the sense that love is fundamental, expresses the spirit of all others, and with enlightenment will lead to the observance of all others (Matthew 22:37-39; 5:43-48; John 14:15,21; 15:12-14; Romans 13:8; 1 Corinthians 13:1; Galatians 5:14).

Accordingly, love is declared to be the chief test of Christian discipleship (John 13:35; Matthew 5:44; 1 John 3:14). Also, love is the highest motive or ground of moral actions. Without this all-other motives fall short of furnishing the true stimulus of Christian living.

As all sin roots itself in selfishness, so all virtue springs out of love; and yet the love that is presented in the NT as the mainspring of holy living is grateful love as distinct from the love that is wholly disinterested.”

#3 – Fellowship of the Spirit – Harmonious relationships springing forth in the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

#4 – Affection (bowels) and mercy – The word affection is *splanchna* in Greek, speaking of an intestine, which relates to having pity or sympathy for others, thus the term bowels of mercy.

#5 – Joyful unity – By being like-minded, having the same love, of one accord, on mind.

#6 – Beware of selfish ambition and conceit, but practice humility. Develop the heart of esteeming others.

#7 – *What are your interests?* (Share with others.) *What is the interest of others?* (Find out ask!) Be interested and encourage one another (i.e. – Husbands, wives, children).

#2 - PUT ON THE MIND OF CHRIST! (v5-8)

(v5) *Let the mind of Christ be in you!* The mind in Greek is *phroneo* meaning to exercise the same, to entertain or have the same sentiment or opinion, same interest, same affection, same humbleness of heart.

(v6) *This passage affirms the deity of Christ*, the second person of the trinity. The word “*form*” (Gk. – *morphe*) speaks of the *in-most nature*. C.I. Scofield writes, “This word form is the external appearance by which a person or thing strikes the vision; yet it is an external form truly indicative of the inner nature from which it springs. Nothing in this passage teaches that the eternal Word (Jn. 1:1) emptied Himself of either His divine nature or His attributes, but only of the outward and visible manifestation of the Godhead. God may change form, but He cannot cease to be God. The word “*equal*” defines things that are the same in every sense. Jesus is equal to God and constantly claimed to be so during His earthly ministry (cf. Jn. 5:18; 10:33,38; 14:9; 20:28; Heb. 1:1-3). (See back page for scriptures that affirm the “*Deity of Christ*”).

- In the MacArthur Study Bible, we find the following defense of the “DEITY OF CHRIST”:

- First, in John's gospel Jesus repeatedly assumed for Himself the divine name “I am” (cf. 4:26; 8:24,28,58; 13:19; 18:5,6,8). In 10:30, He claimed to be one in nature and essence with the Father (that the unbelieving Jews recognized this as a claim to deity is clear from their reaction in v. 33; cf. 5:18). Nor did Jesus correct Thomas when he addressed Him as “My Lord and my God!” (20:28); in fact, He praised him for his faith (v. 29). Jesus' reaction is inexplicable if He were not God.

To the Philippians Paul wrote, “[Jesus] existed in the form of God,” possessing absolute “equality with God” (Philippians 2:6). In Colossians 2:9 he declared, “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.” Romans 9:5 refers to Christ as “God blessed forever”; Titus 2:13 and 2 Peter 1:1 call Him “our God and Savior.” God the Father addressed the Son as God in Hebrews 1:8: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.” In his first epistle John referred to Jesus Christ as “the true God” (1 John 5:20).

- Second, Jesus Christ receives titles elsewhere in Scripture given to God. As noted above, Jesus took for Himself the divine name “I am.” In John 12:40 John quoted Isaiah 6:10, a passage which in Isaiah's vision refers to God (cf. Isaiah 6:5). Yet in verse 41 John declared, “These things Isaiah said because he saw His [Christ's; cf. vv. 36,37,42] glory, and he spoke of Him.” Jeremiah

prophesied that the Messiah would be called “The Lord [YHWH] our righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:6).

God and Jesus are both called Shepherd (Psalms 23:1—John 10:14); Judge (Genesis 18:25—2 Timothy 4:1,8); Holy One (Isaiah 10:20—Psalms 16:10; Acts 2:27; 3:14); First and Last (Isaiah 44:6; 48:12—Revelation 1:17; 22:13); Light (Psalms 27:1—John 8:12); Lord of the Sabbath (Exodus 16:23,29; Leviticus 19:3—Matthew 12:8); Savior (Isaiah 43:11—Acts 4:12; Titus 2:13); Pierced One (Zechariah 12:10—John 19:37); Mighty God (Isaiah 10:21—Isaiah 9:6); Lord of lords (Deuteronomy 10:17—Revelation 17:14); Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8—Revelation 22:13); Lord of Glory (Psalms 24:10—1 Corinthians 2:8); and Redeemer (Isaiah 41:14; 48:17; 63:16—Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:12).

- **Third, Jesus Christ possesses the incommunicable attributes of God, those unique to Him.** Scripture reveals Christ to be eternal (Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6), omnipresent (Matthew 18:20; 28:20), omniscient (Matthew 11:27; John 16:30; 21:17), omnipotent (Philippians 3:21), immutable (Hebrews 13:8), sovereign (Matthew 28:18), and glorious (John 17:5; 1 Corinthians 2:8; cf. Isaiah 42:8; 48:11, where God states that He will not give His glory to another).

- **Fourth, Jesus Christ does the works that only God can do.** He created all things (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16), sustains the creation (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3), raises the dead (John 5:21; 11:25-44), forgives sin (Mark 2:10; cf. v. 7), and His word stands forever (Matthew 24:35; cf. Isaiah 40:8).

- **Fifth, Jesus Christ received worship** (Matthew 14:33; 28:9; John 9:38; Philippians 2:10; Hebrews 1:6)—even though He taught that only God is to be worshiped (Matthew 4:10). Scripture also records that both holy men (Acts 10:25-26) and holy angels (Revelation 22:8-9) refused worship.

- **Finally, Jesus Christ received prayer,** which is only to be addressed to God (John 14:13-14; Acts 7:59-60; 1 John 5:13-15).

> **Who is Jesus according to:**

- **Jehovah's Witnesses** – Jesus is not God. Before he lived on earth, he was Michael, the archangel. Jehovah made the universe through him. On earth he was a man who lived a perfect life. After dying on a stake (not a cross), he was resurrected as a spirit; his body was destroyed. Jesus is not coming again; he "returned" invisibly in 1914 in spirit. Very soon, he and the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah's Witnesses.

- **Mormonism** – Jesus is a separate god from the Father (Elohim). He was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in Heaven, and is the "elder brother" of all men and spirit beings. His body was created through sexual union between Elohim and Mary. Jesus was married. His death on the cross does not provide full atonement for all sin, but does provide everyone with resurrection

- **Seventh-day Adventism** – Ellen G. White says God the Father exalted Jesus to be his Son, thus provoking Lucifer's jealousy and a in heaven. Jesus is example to prove we can live sinlessly. His sacrifice on the cross did not complete the atonement; since 1844 he has been applying his blood in heaven in an ongoing "Investigative Judgment" after which he will return. Also identified as Michael the Archangel; most Adventist founders denied Jesus' deity.

- **Unification Church** – Jesus was a perfect man, not God. He is the son of Zechariah, not born of a virgin. His mission was to unite the Jews behind him, find a perfect bride, and begin a perfect family. The mission failed. Jesus did not resurrect physically. The second coming of Christ is fulfilled in Sun Myung Moon, who is superior to Jesus and will finish Jesus' mission.

- **Christian Science** – Jesus was not the Christ, but a man who displayed the Christ idea. ("Christ" means perfection, not a person.) Jesus was not God, and God can never become man or flesh. He did not suffer and could not suffer for sins. He did not die on the cross. He was not resurrected physically. He will not literally come back

- **Unity School of Christianity** – Jesus was a man and not the Christ. Instead, he was a man who had "Christ Consciousness." "Christ" is a state of perfection in every person. Jesus had lived many times before and was in search of his own salvation. Jesus did not die as a sacrifice for anyone's sins. Jesus did not rise physically and will never return to earth in physical form.

- **New Age** – Jesus is not the one true God. He is not a savior, but a spiritual model, and guru, and is now an "ascended master." He was a New Ager who tapped into divine power in the same way that anyone can. Many believe he went east to India or Tibet and learned mystical truths. He did not rise physically, but "rose" into a higher spiritual realm

- **Wicca** – Jesus is either rejected altogether or sometimes considered a spiritual teacher who taught love and compassion.

- **Scientology** – Jesus is rarely mentioned in Scientology. Jesus was not the Creator, nor was he an "operating thetan" (in control of supernatural powers, cleared from mental defects). Jesus did not die for sins.

- **Islam** – Jesus (Isa in Arabic) is one of the most respected of over 1 of over 24,000 prophets sent by Allah. Jesus was sinless, born of a virgin, and a great miracle worker, but not the Son of God. His virgin birth is like Adam's creation. Jesus is not God, and God is not Jesus. He was not crucified. Jesus,

not Muhammad, will return for a special role before the future judgment day, perhaps turning Christians to Islam.

- **Nation of Islam** – Officially, Jesus is a sinless prophet of Allah. Privately, Jesus was born from adultery between Mary and Joseph, who was already married to another woman. Jesus was not crucified, but stabbed in the heart by a police officer. He is still buried in Jerusalem. Prophecies of Jesus' return refer to Master Fard, Elijah Muhammad, or to Louis Farakkhan.

- **Baha'i Faith** – Jesus is one of many manifestations of God. Each manifestation supersedes the previous, giving new teachings about God. Jesus, who superseded Moses, was superseded by Muhammad, and most recently by the greatest, Baha'u'llah ("Glory of Allah"). Jesus is not God and did not rise from the dead. He is not the only way to God. Jesus has returned to earth in the form of Baha'u'llah

- **Judaism** – Jesus is seen either as an extremist false messiah or a good but martyred Jewish rabbi (teacher). Many Jews do not consider Jesus at all. Jews (except Messianic Jews and Hebrew Christians) do not believe he was the Messiah, Son of God, or that he rose from the dead. Orthodox Jews believe the Messiah will restore the Jewish kingdom and eventually rule the earth

- **Kabbalah Centre** – Jesus is not God, nor is he the Jewish Messiah (who is yet to come). Some believe Jesus was a kabbalist himself

- **Hinduism** – Jesus Christ is a teacher, a guru, or an avatar (an incarnation of Vishnu). He is a son of God as are others. His death does not atone for sins, and he did not rise from the dead,

- **Hare Krishna** – Jesus is not important to this group. He is usually thought of as an enlightened vegetarian teacher who taught meditation. He is not an incarnation of God. Some Krishna devotees consider Jesus to be Krishna. Others say he is a great avatar (teacher).

- **Transcendental Meditation (TM)** – Jesus is not uniquely God. Like all persons, Jesus had a divine essence. Unlike most, he discovered it. Christ didn't suffer and couldn't suffer for people's sins.

- **Sikhism** – Jesus is not specifically part of this belief, although the *Adi Granth* specifically denies the Trinity and describes God as “beyond birth” and incarnation.

- **Buddhism** – Jesus Christ is not part of the historic Buddhist worldview. Buddhists in the West today generally view Jesus as an enlightened teacher,

while Buddhists in Asia believe Jesus is an avatar or a Bodhisattva (but not God).

(v7) Jesus made Himself of “no reputation” – One scholar writes, “This is the doctrine of Christ’s self-emptying in His incarnation (Gk. – kenosis). This was a self-renunciation, not an emptying Himself of deity nor an exchange of deity for humanity. Jesus did, however, renounce or set aside His privileges in several areas:

(1) heavenly glory – while on earth He gave up the glory of a face-to-face relationship with God and the continuous outward display and personal enjoyment of the glory (cf. Jn. 17:50)

(2) independent authority—during His incarnation Christ completely submitted Himself to the will of His Father (cf. Mt. 26:39; Jn. 5:30; Heb. 5:8);

(3) divine prerogatives—He set aside the voluntary display of His divine attributes and submitted Himself to the Spirit’s direction (cf. Mt. 24:36; Jn. 1:45-49);

(4) eternal riches—while on earth Christ was poor and owned very little (cf. 2 Cor. 8:9); and

(5) a favorable relationship with God—He felt the Father’s wrath for human sin while on the cross (cf. Mt. 27:47). (Let us look at His humble service in John 13:1-17.)

(v8) Our Lord’s humble obedience led to His death on the cross for our glorious salvation!

#3 - HAVE A MIND FOR WORSHIP! (v9-11)

(v9) His name is above every name! – Jesus is known as Son (Matthew 11:27), Son of God (John 9:35), and Son of man (Matthew 8:20), Messiah (John 1:41), Lord (Romans 14:8), Word (John 1:1), Wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:30), Bridegroom (Mark 2:19), Shepherd (John 10:11), Vine (John 15:1), Light (John 1:9), and “I AM” (John 8:12). Peter said in Acts 4:12 – “*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*”

(v10-11) The word “confess” means “*to acknowledge,*” “*affirm,*” or “*agree*” willingly for salvation, or admittedly resulting in condemnation. (See John 20:26-31; Romans 10:8-13; Revelation 3:7-13.)