

1 CORINTHIANS

Seeing Life through the Mind of Christ

Understanding the Mind of Christ

1 Corinthians 2:11-16

- Who was “Paul” and the church at Corinth?
- Paul:
 - Fierce persecutor of the early church. Acts 9
 - Miraculous conversion - “Damascus Rd”
 - After conversion; evangelist, church planter. Wrote 13/27 NT books.
- Church at Corinth:
 - Capital City of Greece. Roman Empire.
 - Formed 50-58AD. Acts 18.
 - Growth pains: divisions, good/bad theology
 - Paul writes to establish Body of Christ.



(Constantinople)
Byzantium

BITHYNIA

Nicaea

Neapolis

Philippi

MACEDONIA

Amphipolis

Thessalonica

Berea

Mt. Olympus▲

GREECE

ACHAIA

Corinth

Delphi

Athens

Corinth

Cenchreae

Sparta

Samothrace

Apollonia

Troy

Troas

Assos

MYSIA

†Pergamum

†Thyatira

†Smyrna

†Sardis

†Philadelphia

†Ephesus

Hierapolis

Trogyllium

Laodicea

Miletus

Colossae

Cos

Cnidus

RHODES

Patara

Myra

Perga

Attalia

GALATIA

CAPPADOCIA

LYCAONIA

CILICIA

Antioch

Iconium

Lystra

Derbe

Tarsus

PAMPHYLIA

CYPRUS

Salamis

Paphos

Phoenix

Fair Havens

Clauda

CRETE

Salmone

Lasea

PHOENICIA

GALILEE

SAMARIA

JUDEA

Mediterranean
Sea

1. Notice how Paul clarifies who the HS is by telling us *who He is not*, and by giving a human normal as an example. His objective is to connect verse 11-12 with verse 16!

- 1 Cor. 2:11-12 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the *thoughts 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 understand...*”

A. “Spirit of God” vs “spirit of a person.” V11.

B. “Spirit of God” vs “spirit of the world.” V12, 14; 6:11

C. Have received – past event. V12, 6:11



Each person in the Corinthian Church had a date, time, when life had changed for them. A day when they had been *reconciled* to God, eternally. The HS in them was the proof that they had been born of God. 2 Cor 5:17-19; John 3:3f.

Have you ever wondered if you have the Holy Spirit? For how can one know the things of God, without Him? How do you read these two verses?

- Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**³⁹ (ESV)
- Jn. 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, ***whom the world cannot receive***, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, ***for he dwells with you and will be in you.*** (ESV)

2. What do you see as the “so what” of having the presence of the Spirit of God in one’s life?

1 Cor. 2:10-12 ... For the Spirit searches everything, even the **depths of God**.¹¹ ... So also no one **comprehends** the thoughts 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 understand the things freely given us by God**. ... 16 But we have the **mind of Christ**.



- Do you have difficulty in understanding the Word of God? Is it because you are either not reading it, or reading it in your own strength?
- Can anyone unlock the things of God without a “key”? The HS is the “key.”

- How can anyone understand the truths of God, of Jesus crucified, if they think it is nonsense? Surrender to Christ changes nonsense to my truth!
- 1 Cor. 2:14 The *natural person* [the person without the Spirit of God] does not accept [believe] the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly [foolishness] to him, and *he is not able to understand them* because they are *spiritually discerned*.
 - A. Truths of God are foolish, “locked” away
 - B. The HS is like the key to the locked door



- It's a family thing!
 - V12 – “we” (2x)
 - V12 – “us”
 - V13 – “we”
 - V16 – “we”
- HS in *all believers* enables the concept of the family of God to be formed, the body of Christ, on earth. (1 Cor 12).

3. Having the “the mind of Christ,” is not about some special spiritual knowledge – but believing and obeying the instruction and counsel of the word as interpreted by the HS.

- 1 Cor. 2:16 "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But *we have the mind of Christ* [so we can be instructed by the Lord]. (ESV)
 - A. We have the key to understanding.
 - B. We have the guidance of the Holy Spirit, always with us. Gal 5:16-17
 - C. We have the will to surrender our fears, our angers and unforgiveness's, our time and possessions, etc., to the hands of a loving father. Phil 2:5f



- Phil. 2:5-8 Have this **attitude [mindset] in yourselves** which was also **in Christ Jesus**,⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but **emptied Himself**, taking the form of **a bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men.⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by **becoming obedient to the point of death**, even death on a cross. (NAU)

- ## Summary:

- A. The HS is the “stuff” of God. He is not the spirit of man or the spirit of the world, but he is of God. When I receive the HS by faith in Jesus, my spiritual life begins.
- B. The “so what” of the HS in my life is that I have the key to unlock the truth of God, provided I open it and obey it. The HS also links me with other believers and together, we are the family of God, the “body of Christ,” on earth.
- C. Having the “mind of Christ” is not about some special knowledge – but rather a willingness to come under His truths, embracing the family of God and the mission of Jesus Christ. It is an attitude, a mindset for believers where others are more important than themselves.

- Next steps:

1. The HS is a gift from a loving Father. Have you allowed yourself to unlock your mind to embrace the understanding we can have through His instruction?
2. Ultimately, having the “mind of Christ” is about surrendering all to Jesus. What good is the HS’s instruction, if we are unwilling to “come under” the Lord’s authority and direction? Is today the day you do that?
3. How can you share the power of the cross in your life with someone who is struggling in theirs? Will you be intentional this week about giving testimony of what God has done in your life?

- How would you define the “Spirit of God” vs the “spirit of the world” (v12) based on the following passage?
- 1 John 4:2 **By this you know the Spirit of God**: every spirit that **confesses that Jesus Christ** has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that **does not confess Jesus** is not from God. This is the **spirit of the antichrist**, which you heard was coming and **now is in the world** already.
- How perceptive are you in discerning the voice of God and the voice of anti-God?