

Philippians 2
How to Think Like Jesus
April 11, 2010

Introduction: Let's see how well you know your Dynamic Duos. So, let's just say

If you were looking for a Dynamic Duo or a soul mate, a friend, an employee, what

virtues, values, characteristics, & attitudes would you look for?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strong	<input type="checkbox"/> Humble	<input type="checkbox"/> Trustworthy
<input type="checkbox"/> Honest	<input type="checkbox"/> Gentle	<input type="checkbox"/> Pure
<input type="checkbox"/> Faithful	<input type="checkbox"/> Generous	<input type="checkbox"/> Reliable
<input type="checkbox"/> Peaceable	<input type="checkbox"/> Joyful	<input type="checkbox"/> Loving

We get frustrated when we can't find these in others. Other people get frustrated when they don't see them in us. Why? These are the building blocks of great relationships. This is how God wired the world to get along. When we have these kinds of values, virtues, characteristics, & attitudes then we are going to have great relationships.

These are the same things that we see in the nature of God. These are the values, virtues, characteristics, & attitudes of Jesus. These

are God-qualities - when we act like them - we look like God

Philippians 1 says: May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ^[b]—for this will bring much glory and praise to God. 1:11 NLT

Remember, when God created man and woman he created them in his image - with these virtues, values, characteristics, & attitudes.

Sin marred this image. This is why last week on Easter we talked about why we should twin the attitude and thoughts of Jesus-

because he is the perfect image of God on Earth! But that is all well and good-but just exactly do we twin Jesus? Grit our teeth

and try real hard-which has led to some of Christianity's great hearsays. Or do we sit around like a bump on a log and wait for

God to zap us into new creation? This has led to fleshly

Christianity. The gospel says we put on Christ, through grace.

GRACE-God's Riches At Christ Expense. Notice though there are two parts we must act in faith to put on Christ and Second it is

God's Job to transform. So Just exactly how do we have the same

mind of Christ-How do we become fully devoted followers of Christ?

1. Know What happened when Jesus Saved You!

When God saved you, when you turned your life over to Jesus, when you confessed your faith in Christ, buried in Christian baptism and raised to a new life-three things happened instantly at the same time.

First is what happened **legally**. We went from being **guilty** before an infinitely sinless God to being fully forgiven and acquitted of all guilt.

I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ.^[c] For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. Philippians 3:9NLT

Second, there was a radical change **relationally**. We went from being **condemned slaves** to **adopted children**

Galatians 4:But when the right time came, God sent his Son who was born of a woman and lived under the law.⁵ God did this so he could buy

freedom for those who were under the law and so we could become his children. ⁶ Since you are God's children, God sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, and the Spirit cries out, "Father."^[a]⁷ So now you are not a slave; you are God's child, and God will give you the blessing he promised, because you are his child.

Third, there was a radical change **inherently**. Something happened to our **deepest internal nature**.

for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:13 NIV

Imagine a courtroom where a newly convicted criminal is standing, about to be sentenced for his crimes. Suddenly the judge looks away from the criminal and calls his son to the bench. The gavel comes crashing down, and the judge pronounces the criminal "not guilty" because his son has agreed to serve the sentence in full. This represents of course, the first aspect of our salvation. Our legal debt before God has been paid in full.

Then the judge steps down from the bench, puts His arm around the

criminal, and tells him he wants to adopt him into his family.

"You're coming home with us," the judge says warmly. This is the next aspect of our conversion, our adoption.

But the third aspect of our conversion—our inner renovation—is something no human judge could ever possibly do. The criminal may walk out of that courtroom forgiven and adopted, but he's still fundamentally the same person as before.

There's no pill the judge can give him to cause the criminal to actually want to do right from now on, something to offset the man's criminal inclination.

Yet this is exactly what God has done in our rebirth. **We're changed inherently as well as legally and relationally.**

"Biblical virtues are simply a gift of God's Grace. Picture: At salvation, Christ comes to dwell in us, he baptizes us in the Holy Spirit, he washes us in His blood, our sins are forgiven. He places in us, his fullness. We have all of Christ. Including the mind of Christ! Placed in us His values, His virtues, His characteristics We have 100% of Jesus

How could we ever hope to have a heart like Jesus? Ready for a surprise? You already do. You already have the heart of Christ. ... If you are in Christ, you already have the heart of Christ. One of the supreme yet unrealized promises of God is simply this: if you have given your life to Jesus, Jesus has given himself to you. He has made your heart his home. It would be hard to say it more succinctly than Paul does: "Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20 MSG).

Max Lucado tells the story about a woman who owned a small cottage on the seashore in Ireland at the turn of the century. She was very wealthy but also tight with her money. So everyone in her town were blown away when she decided to be one of the first to have her house wired for electricity.

Several weeks after they installed it, a meter reader showed up at her door. He asked her, "is your electricity working alright?" "your meter shows hardly any use."

"Oh, it works fine," she said, "every evening when the sun sets, I

turn on my lights long enough to light my candles; then I turn the lights off." She's tapped into the power but she doesn't use it.

Her house is connected to the power source but she hasn't been changed.

Some of you have trusted God to save you through your relationship with Christ but you have not allowed him to transform your life. How can I turn on the virtues, values, characteristics, & attitudes of Jesus in my life?

Know the Virtues of Jesus and to recognize them

Part of the problem for the wealthy Irish lady, is she had no clue what a world of electricity was like-that is was worth a few cents. Many of us have no clue, if Jesus showed up at our house what he would be like-what his thoughts would be like-what he would say-I have a surprise for you-you do not have to wonder it is already revealed in the New Testament! That is exactly why Paul in Philippians four says. . .

Brothers and sisters, think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right

and pure and beautiful and respected. Philippians 4:8 Why think about these things? They are the Character of Christ!

In T.W. Hunt's *The Mind of Christ* he describes that each virtue of Christ has an opposite and a perversion ...

Christlike Virtue	Opposite	Perversion
Pure	Impure	Puritanical
Peaceable	Disruptive	Compromising
Gentle	Cruel	Careless
Approachable	Standoffish	Yes-Man
Merciful	Merciless	Indulgent
Fruitful	Fruitless	Fruit-obsessed
Steadfast	Wavering	Inflexible
Honest	Lying	Brutal

(Chart adapted from T.W. Hunt's *The Mind of Christ*)

The book *Mind of Christ* simply allows us to hold up a mirror to our life to see if the virtue of Christ is growing in us, to see if there are areas of life we are willfully thumbing our nose at God, and areas we have maybe distorted the gospel.

As we go through these ask yourself do I have the virtue of Christ?

Am I walking in a opposite direct or have I distorted the truth?

Pure

Impure

Puritanical

Virtue of Purity: Blameless, clean, spotless, innocent, not contaminated

Opposite of Purity is Impurity: Lustful, carnal, corrupt, immoral, impure

Perversions of Purity: Puritanical, Rigid, Legalistic, Overly Strict, Severe, Self Righteous

Peaceable

Disruptive

Compromising

Virtue of Peaceable: Friendly, harmonious, orderly, quiet, agreeable, compatible

Opposites of Peaceable: fussy, nit-picky, picky, contentious, combative, cantankerous, ornery, contrary, cranky, disagreeable, mean, obstinate.

Perversion of Peaceable: Compromising, wish-washy, go with the flow, people-pleaser

Gentle

Cruel

Careless

Virtue of Being Gentle: Fair, considerate, reasonable, nurturing, tender, tactfull, gracious, considerate, kind-hearted

Opposite of Gentle: Cruel, harsh, rough, abusive, hard, bitter, violent, blunt, snippy.

Perversions of Gentle: Careless, negligent, neglectful, reckless,

Approachable

Standoffish

Yes-Man

Virtue of Approachable: Entreatable, helpful, *Keeping the Mind of Christ*

accessible, available, open, reachable, cooperative, willing, responsive.

Opposites of Approachable: Standoffish, distant, cold, uncooperative, unresponsive, unwilling to help.

Perversions of Approachable: Yes-man or Yes-woman, pushover, dupe, chump, stuge, sucker.

Merciful

Merciless

Indulgent

Virtue of being Merciful: caring, forgiving, noble, sympathetic, compassionate, giving.

Opposite of merciful: merciless, unmerciful, unsympathetic, hardened, uncaring.

Perversions of Merciful: Indulgent (characterized by or given to yielding to the wishes of someone ; "indulgent grandparents"), lenient, permissive.

Fruitful

Fruitless

Fruit-obsessed

Virtue of Fruitfulness: Fruitful, productive, prolific, constructive,

Opposites of Fruitfulness: Fruitless, unproductive, ineffective, empty, hollow, profitless.

Perversions of Fruitfulness: Fruit obsessed, success-driven, obsessed with numbers, vain, showy

Steadfast

Wavering

Inflexible

Virtue of being Steadfast: firm, unshakable, sure, never-failing, enduring, abiding, resolute, constant, devoted, steady, immovable, uncompromising.

Opposites of Steadfast: wavering, unsure, unstable, fickle, indecisive.

Perversions of steadfast: inflexible, rigid, narrow-minded, stubborn, unbendable, hard-headed.

Honest

Lying

Brutal

Virtue of Honesty: Sincere, true, genuine, ethical, sound, trustworthy, upright, straight-forward, factual, real.

Opposites of Honesty: Lying, dishonest, hypocritical, counterfeit, fake, fraud, crooked, deceitful, scheming, shady.

Perversion of honesty: brutal, cruel, callous, unkind, hard hearted, indifferent, unrelenting, vicious.

"In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:5 NCV)

The good news for believers is once we have an accurate picture of our virtue-lack of or perversion of the mind of Christ-is In the same way, count yourselves **dead** to **sin** but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:11 We already have the mind of Christ-the virtues of Christ-the truth of Christ. If it is not evident in certain corners of our lives-

the answer is not effort-but faith in Christ to transform us-to nurture in a relationship where this fruit can grow! We once again put on Christ where we may have taken him off! So let's talk about. . .

KEEPING THE MIND OF CHRIST

Be With Him

Matthew 4:19 says: *Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."* ²⁰*At once they left their nets and followed him.*

Have you ever been so intimate with some one-or you followed them so long-you can finish their sentence for them? That you have an idea of how a person will react, in any given situation? That you know your husband's grunts mean pass the ketchup! That when you ask your wife what's wrong and She says; Nothing-I'm Fine! You know you left up the toilet seat again!

That is the most basic premises of keeping the mind of Christ.

We need to spend enough time with Jesus, we accurately know his thoughts and wishes. We spend enough time with him we desire to be

obedient to him!

Be a Workman of His Word

2 timothy 2:15 says; *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

In building a relationship it's important to learn about the other person. One of the principal ways God tells us about Himself is through His Word, the Bible. By reading it you can learn His likes and dislikes, His values, and His plans for you. If you're just starting with this one, I would suggest beginning with the book of John, and make sure you have a readable translation like the New Living Translation or the Contemporary English Version. And set goals for yourself as you read, whether it be to read a chapter a day, 15 minutes a day, doing it five times a week, or reading along with a devotional book. This is exactly why the church is eating the expense of producing copies of weekly devotion and I am expanding the energy to produce the devotions-because we know Christians do not grow unless they are

growing in the knowledge of God's word!

Be Supported

Philippians 2:25 says; *But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.*

Paul a Spiritual Giant, needs a connection to Epaphroditus for us to keep the mind of Christ we must be supported by other believers.

In short what this means to keep and grow in practicing the mind of Christ means we need to be part of a local church either here at ECC or someplace else that loves God and honors His Word, surround yourself with other people who are eager to get to know Jesus better, encourage each other, hold each other accountable, mentor each other, and love each other as we all strive to know Him more and more.

But this is only the first step to take, there is several deeper levels in being supported by believers.

Have you ever noticed how much you can learn about someone through other people? Through involvement in a small Group you can gain the

insights that other believers have about God and about different issues, you can find encouragement as you share and face crises together, and you can build a support group with people doing the same thing that you're doing—getting to know Christ better. Our small Group ministry goes on a summer hiatus, but when we start up again this Fall be sure to join in and be part of it. May I suggest also to those currently involved in a small group one way to broaden your support of other believers, is every fall rotate to a different small group. But support of believers helps us keep the mind of Christ strong in us!

Be a faith practiceR

I love the story in the gospels of the mount of transfiguration. In this story Jesus brought the disciples into a high mountain. Jesus had a way separating people that questioned him from people that wanted to ask questions and people that want nothing from people who can believe Him for something. I don't believe Jesus chose Peter, James, and John to follow Him to while He left the others behind. I believe Peter, James, and John chose to follow Jesus up into a mountain while

the other chose to remain behind. Most people don't want to go up because they did not want to grow up. I can almost hear the disciples complaining about how high the mountain was and how far they had to walk. Only those who want to go higher will follow Jesus beyond their comfort zone. Only those who want to know Him more will follow Jesus to a point that only He can lead them from. So, Jesus calls us to step out and step up to come up to another level of faith so He can reveal something new about Himself to us. It is up to us to come up and grow up to the point that we want to know Jesus more.

Conclusion: Four Part Harmony

Barbershop vocal harmony, is a style of a cappella, or unaccompanied vocal music characterized by consonant four-part chords for every melody note in a predominantly homophonic texture. Each of the four parts has its own role: generally, the lead sings the melody, the tenor harmonizes above the melody, the bass sings the lowest harmonizing notes, and the baritone completes the chord, usually below the lead.

This is sometimes referred to as four part harmony. Four Part

Harmony defining characteristic the *ringing* chord. This is a name for one specific and well-defined acoustical effect, also referred to as *expanded sound, the angel's voice, the fifth voice, or the overtone.*

Understand that four part harmony allows not only allows you to sound like an angel-it is a supernatural experience where you work hand in hand with the Almighty. Listen to I Peter 1:2 God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. I Peter 1:2 NLT So You are not just a dynamic dou-but are in a powerful four part harmony with God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit! Rejoice the victory is ours Through the risen Christ!