

In verse 4, chapter 2, Jesus and Beseeched sin to keep that they be of the same mind in the Lord. See, there was some division in these two. They believed they were two women and there was some kind of a rift or an issue there.

Now, he doesn't go into any great detail and he's very gentle the way he deals with that. But he says here that I beseech you that they be of the same mind in the Lord. So he wants them to be like-minded.

And that's what we're going to talk about today. Actually, if you go back to chapter 2, verse 5 is the key verse. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.

Now, the entire chapter centers on this particular verse because he's talking about the mind of Christ, having the mind of Christ. And by the way, if you're saved today, can you say amen? You have the mind of Christ, by the way. When we got saved, we got a new heart, we got a new mind.

We have the mind of Christ. It's right here in the word of God and by the spirit of God. So keep your finger there and flip over to 1 Corinthians chapter 2 if you would.

And we'll see that. I want to show you that. You have the mind of Christ.

And so he says to these two ladies, be of the same mind. Let's get along with each other. Let's be kind to each other.

Let's not have any division. Now, in some churches when he dealt with division and contention, he had to be very sharp and very harsh. But here he's not.

He's very gentle in his speech here to these women. But if you look at 1 Corinthians chapter 2 and verse number 16, it says, for who hath known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. You see, we have the mind of Christ.

We have the mind of Christ. We can know what God thinks. You ever ask yourself, what does God want? It's right here in the book.

Amen? It's right here in the book. Now, it's not always clear. Some things are a little bit more difficult to discern.

But God has given us his spirit. He's given us the Holy Spirit of God. While you're there in chapter 2, and I'm going to get back there, I want to show you a couple other verses to show you that.

In chapter 2, look at verses 11 and 12, chapter 2 back in 1 Corinthians. He says, for what man knoweth the things of a man save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so, the things of God knoweth no man but the spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

God wants us to know his will. God wants us to know his mind. And he does that through the word of God and through the Holy Spirit of God.

So there are times when we don't maybe necessarily know all the little details, but there are so many things that God clearly reveals to us in his word and through his spirit. And by the way, one way he reveals himself as you're reading the word through the Holy Spirit is he opens up your eyes or your

heart. You got to get in the word of God.

Amen? Got to be in the word. Got to be in the word. You should be reading it every single day of your life.

We listened to a podcast on the way over of testimonies. And this one gentleman, he said, he said, I've been reading the Bible, he said, through and he said, I turned to Isaiah, I think he said chapter 42 verse 11, he said, and God spoke to me directly. And that's how God speaks to us.

Amen? Directly. Speaks to us through his word. So if you want to hear the voice of God and you want to know the mind of God, you got to get into the word of God and let the Holy Spirit teach you.

That's our responsibility. That's what God wants from us. I don't know about you, but I want to know what God wants in my life.

I want to know what God wants. I want to do what God wants. For 23 years, I did what I wanted.

Didn't work out very well. Amen? Those of you before you were saved, you did your own thing. And now you're a Christian, you know that that old life was not a good life.

You know, John says, love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. You know, if any man loved the world, the love of the father is not in him. All that is in the world, lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life is not of the father, but is of the world.

And so those things are from the world. We want to know and be in the word of God because we want to know what God says. So, if you want to go back in Chapter 2 of Philippians, we're taught there how to think and how to react to the situations that arise in our life.

Anybody ever have any stress? Anybody have any stress? Okay, it's three of us, okay, so God bless you, you need to teach, you need to tell me after how not to, you know, all right, good for you, all right, well, at least us three, you know, and so life can be stressful, relationships can be stressful. And so how do we handle them? How do we react to them? Well, the Bible tells us how to do that. So there's four things particularly I want to speak to you about.

The exhortation to the mind of Christ in this chapter, the exhibition of the mind of Christ, the example of the mind of Christ, and then finally, the exaltation of the person of Jesus Christ. We want to focus on Jesus today, amen? Our pastor, my pastor has challenged us a while ago to take, in addition to our Bible time, our study time, our prayer time, take 15 minutes, quiet, and just listen. Don't talk, don't pray, listen to what God says.

And so I took up that challenge. The very first day I did that, I'm sitting down in my, we call it family room, I have a desk, my wife's in there, we do devotions in there. I start, okay, Lord, I want to hear your voice.

It wasn't even two minutes, I kept hearing, it wasn't the voice of God, this noise that drove me crazy. It was distracting. And I had to get up, I'm like, what in the world is that? I said, do you hear that? She goes, I don't hear anything.

I'm like, oh, man. Okay, so I'm listening, I have to go over and I hear it in a wall scratching. I don't

know if a squirrel got in or it was a bird, but I could hear that noise, it drove me crazy.

Here I am trying to listen to God, it's not always easy to listen to God, it's not always easy to be quiet, there are distractions. But after that, a couple of days later, it wasn't very long later, as I was praying and asking God, saying, Lord, speak to my heart. I heard it very clearly, now I didn't hear it audibly, but I heard it in my heart, what the Lord said.

He said, you don't love me enough. And you know what? I said, you're right, Lord, I don't love you enough. And so my desire is to love the Lord with all my heart, all my soul, all my mind, I want to love God more.

So by doing this, I said, well, how can I love Jesus more? And so by studying the Gospels, it's the best place to get to know Jesus, the person of Jesus, the mind of Jesus. And so I've been kind of on a quest with that. I want to know Christ more.

I want to have an intimate relationship and fellowship with him. And we do that through God's word. So keep in mind, verse five, let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

All right. So I'm going to read the first two verses. We'll take a look at that.

We'll break it down. If there therefore be any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the spirit, if any bowels and mercies fulfill you, my joy, that you be like minded, like minded, having the same love of one accord of one mind. You see, he's calling them to unity, just to be united in our purpose.

Unity is very important. Now, unity doesn't mean we all think the same way or we act the same way. God made us different.

Amen. We're different. It's a good thing God made us different.

If my wife and I, if we were the same, you come to my, if it was just me, you'd see nothing in my house, nothing on the counters, nothing on the walls, very plain, very boring. You know, those aren't the things that are on my heart and mind. Now, they're important to me because they're important to her.

So one day we were in our dining room and she said, you notice anything different about this room? I'm looking around and thinking, I better find something different. No, not really. No.

What about, she put a boarder up all the way around the room. It had been up there for a while. And it looks great.

I mean, she does a wonderful job decorating and she's crafty and that's, you know, that's not me. We're different. But yet we're united in our spirit, we're united in our purpose around the Lord.

We've served the Lord together for over 40 years in ministry, our heart, our soul and our mind, you know, is united in that way. But we're different. God made us all differently.

But yet where the difference is, he expects us to be united in purpose around the Lord Jesus Christ. And that's your responsibility. That's my responsibility.

So the first thing I called your attention to is the exhortation to the mind of Christ. He calls us to unity. Now let's look at verses three and four.

I'll get a little bit more into the word of God here as we look at these verses here. He says this, let nothing be done through strife or vainglory but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things but every man also on the things of others.

What he's calling us to do here is to be thinking about other people, to be putting others first. You see, when we put others first and we don't worry about ourselves, we're thinking about other things. Now you've heard the acronym JOY, how many of you know what I'm talking about, JOY? Okay, JOY.

What is JOY? Jesus, others and you, right, Jesus first, others and you. And when we put that, when we do that in our life, when we put Jesus first and then others and then us, there's joy in that, there's joy in serving. So I want to talk about two things here in these two verses.

The first is negative, negative here. He says let nothing be done through strife. The word strife means contention.

It means the desire to put oneself first, you see. It's kind of like what I call strutting your own stuff, you know. You want to be number one, you want to be the best.

Now I'm not saying don't be the best in what you do, but in the church, you know, there's not a number one and a number two, we're all equal, amen? We should all be equal in the sight of God. We should not try to be somebody special so that we get all the attention. Bible says, let another man praise thee and not thine own lips.

When someone says to you, good job or I like that or what, just say praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Now we had a young man in our church many years ago, a teenager.

And Pastor and I used to have a prayer before church on a Wednesday night, a Tuesday at that time. And this young man came in, and he was always, he was in our school, nice young man, but he was always about himself. Every time something happened, the conversation went back to him.

You know anybody like that? You know what I'm talking about? Okay. And so we were sitting there, we were getting ready to pray, and he's talking about himself. And our pastor turned by him and he said, are you the president of your own fan club? Okay, yeah, but he was, you know? And we don't need to be the president of our own fan club, amen? We should be thinking about it.

If someone tells you you're doing a good job or whatever, praise the Lord for that. But you see, that's the idea of strife or contention. You wanna put yourself first there, you strut your stuff.

I think of, how many of you have ever seen a torn turkey when he opens up his feathers? It's amazing, it's amazing. Those feathers come out, and he just kind of struts around showing off. A lot of times he does it around the females.

He wants to show off around the females, of course, you know, or for protection. But he's just strutting his own stuff. We don't need to do that as Christians.

We should be the opposite. I'm gonna talk about that in a moment. So, strife, contention, and then there's an interesting word here he uses in verse 3. Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory.

The word vain glory only shows up one time in the New Testament, and it means empty, glorying, or pride. Don't be prideful. It's not about you, it's not about me, it's about the Lord, amen? Especially in the church.

Now, that doesn't mean if you have a ministry, you should strive to do your best for the Lord there. But I remember years ago when I was in the Bible Institute, our pastor made a statement, very simple. He said, as far as your ministry is concerned, it should be the most important.

As far as your ministry is concerned, it should be the least important. And then he explained, in our mind, whatever you do for the Lord should be the most important thing. But with the church, your ministry is not the most important.

So, it's keeping that balance in life. So, I want you to look at 3rd John, go to 3rd John towards the end, right before Jude revelation, if your Bible's there.

We're going to go over there. I want to look at an example of someone who wanted to be president of his own fan club or what I call ambitious. He had ambitious distinction for honor. Now, his name was Diotrephes. And it says in 3 John 9, John says, I wrote unto the church, but Diotrephes, who lived here was a guy in the church, and when people came into the church, he kind of determined who should and who shouldn't be there. He wanted to have the preeminence, he wanted to be number one. He wanted everybody to notice him when he got there.

That's totally the opposite of what the Lord Jesus Christ expects in us. Now, I'm not saying whatever you do, whether it's in the church or in your home, that you should not do your best and that it's important. But it's not always about you and it's not always about me. It's about what the Lord would have. That's why he says, Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. We should be thinking and acting according to what would Jesus do. You remember what would Jesus do? How many remember the WWJD? Okay, a few of you. Wow. That was, I can't remember, probably about 15 years ago. I'll get to that in a moment. But I want you to keep your finger there. And I want you to see someone who's the opposite of this Diotrephes, who does not want to have the preeminence, who doesn't want everybody to know how important he is.

Keep your finger there and go to Matthew chapter 16. I'm going to skip over there over here. Matthew 16. Matthew chapter 16. We will look at verse number 13. I'll give you context here. Matthew 16 and verse 13. It says here, when Jesus came into the coast of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Whom do men say that I, son of man am. Now he's with his disciples and he's asking them a question. Who do people say that I am? Good question. Okay. Good question. And of course, this is a famous passage where Peter responds, Thou art the Christ.

The Son of the living God. But I also want you to skip over and look at verse number 20. When Peter answers that, Jesus says in verse number 20, He says, then charged He his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. Now that seems strange, doesn't it? The Lord's going around. And what's he want? He wants to show people that he's God, the Son of God, the Lord, the King, the Son of David. He wants people to come to him. But he says here, hey, don't tell anyone that I am the Christ.

See, he didn't want all. Because he knew that if everybody came to him and would want to set him up as a political leader to overthrow Rome, then his ministry would be hindered because people would be constantly around him. There's a point when he also hears Leper and he says, Go show yourself to the priest, but don't say anything." Someone goes off and they begin to publish it and it says he could not do many works there because of that. So Jesus, the Son of God, God in the flesh. Didn't want to make a big deal. He didn't want everybody to realize at that particular point who he was. You know why? Because he was very humble. He wanted people to figure that out on their own. You know, and so that's the opposite of this diatrophies who wanted to have the preeminence, who wanted to be the big cheese. Number one.

That should not be ever be in your mind or my mind, especially in the church situation at work. If you're trying to do your very best to get a position of, you know, to get promoted or whatever, I'm not saying that, but you don't let need to let everybody know, you know. What your goals are. What your goals are sometimes or what you think. And so that's what he's saying here. He said, Let this mind be in you which is in Christ Jesus." Think about what God would do, Jesus would do in this situation. I want you to go back to Philippians chapter 2. People who get a lot of glory and praise, that's going to pass, isn't it? That's going to pass. These stars, these actors and actresses, and especially athletes, I mean. I love sports. I love baseball. I love the Red Sox. My wife and I are huge baseball Red Sox fans. I have been for 60 years. My dad first brought me to the Red Sox Fenway Park back in 1965. And I love the Red Sox. But you know, sometimes in sports, these guys, they puff themselves up, and everybody's puffing them up, you know.

And they're the best. This one, that one, this one. It kind of happened last year with a couple of, like, and then this year, right there, same player can't hit the ball can't do anything. So all that glory lasted for a short time. But it goes away. And so glory is gonna fade away. The only glory that's not gonna fade away is the glory of God. All right, those are the negative aspects, the contention, the vain glory. But I want you to look in verses, let's see, verse number four. Back and flip it says look not every man 4 back in Philippians says. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Now, when you first read that verse, it almost seems to be saying you need to pay attention to what everybody else is doing. Okay. That's not what it's saying. It's saying basically that we need to put the needs of others before the needs of ourselves. We should care about others before we care about ourselves. We should take care of others before we take care of ourselves, you see. To put the need of others before our own needs. That's not easy.

Is it? Is that easy for you? It's not easy for me. I'll be honest with you. Selfishness is something that I fight with. And I brought it as a young man into my life, or it came into my life as a young man. When I was six years old, my brother was nine. He died. My brother died at nine years old of cancer. And of course. After that, I was the only survivor child. And of course, my mother doted on me, protected me. And being the only child, I pretty much got what I wanted to get. Anybody familiar with that? You know, if you have kids, grandkids, or whatever, you know, they play that game, you know. Well.

I kind of grew up very selfish. It was kind of all about me. And I can remember my mom saying at times, it's not all about you, you know. And I want to tell you the same thing today. It's not all about you. It's not all about me. It's all about Jesus Christ. So I want you to keep your fingers crossed. And go over to 1 Corinthians 10 verse 33. And let's see what Paul says about that. Let's see what Paul says about putting, looking every man on his own things, but every man on the things of others. Now, my wife is good about it. Being married all this year, she knows my weaknesses. She's the opposite. She's very loving, very giving. She'll say. Let's do this. Let's do that. You know, somebody moves into the neighborhood, let's go over and welcome them. Well, let's go over and welcome him. Okay, go ahead,

you know, you go ahead. And she does. I'll go, you know, I don't want to say she drags me around because she doesn't. But the conviction comes and she'll go over and bring something. We had a man move in a few years ago, an older man, and she said, let's go bring Mr. Johnson something and welcome ourselves and welcome him. So we went over there and she knocked on the door. We knocked on the door and she made something for him and said, hello.

I'm Kevin Jennifer Hicks. We live right across the street. And she said, I made this for you. He goes, what's that? What's that for? You know, well, we made it for you. Why? You know, he's a little bit gruff, you know, but you know what? Over a period of time, we've gone over there, he's in his 80s, we've shoveled his driveway, we've brought him different things. And now, you know, guess what? When he comes out, he always waves to us. Hey, how you doing over there?" he says. You know, kindness, kindness, love, love breaks down a lot of barriers, doesn't it? It really does. So if you go to what did I say, Matthew chapter, where am I here, sorry.

1 Corinthians 10:33 Let me tell you what Paul says here. He says in 1 Corinthians 10:33 even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many that they may be saved." He's saying, Look, it's not about me. I'm doing this so that I can see other people saved. I wanna do the best I can that I can for them, to profit them. And when we do things for other people to be a blessing to them, don't you get the blessing? Yes, thank you. Okay, let me ask when you do stuff for other people. Do you get the blessing? Yes, of course, you should get a blessing. It feels good to be able to do nice things for other people. I mean, it's good, Jesus, others than you, you know, and that's how you build relationships with people. You know, I don't know about you, I don't know of any of you where you live, about your neighborhood.

And how sayest thou, show us the Father? Now, how can anybody claim that if you've seen me, you've seen God? Okay, you and I can't claim that. Oh, you want to know what God's like? Look at me. But don't look at me. Okay, don't look at anyone. And that's what Jesus is saying here that he was God. He claimed to be God. That's why the Pharisees and the scribes many times wanted to take up stones to kill him because it was considered blasphemous. But he was God. He was. The blasphemous. But he was God. Who became a man.

And the reason he did that was for you and for me. And we'll get to that. So he could give his life on the cross for you and for me. All right. Look at Matthew 20. Matthew 20. We'll look at a couple more verses here before I finish up here. Matthew 20. Now, if you didn't learn anything else and you didn't gain anything else from today, learn, memorize verse 5, Philippians 2:5. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. If you go away with that, that'll be a blessing. All right.

Matthew 20 and verse 28. Let's see here. I'm going to go back to verse 27. He says, and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant. In other words, you want to be number one, be your servant. Okay. Even as the Son of Man, that's Jesus, came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and give his life, a ransom for many. Jesus said, Here's why I came. Okay. I didn't come for you to minister to me, to serve me. I came to serve you. And to give my life as a ransom for you see he was very humble he thought it not robbery it said to be equal with god because he was god you know really for you and i as christians there's really no small task now it was mentioned from the pulpit today if you have a lawnmower mow the come.

And mow the lawn well i mean if you have a lawn come mow the lawn Come and mow the lawn. Somebody's got to mow the lawn right? So often we take advantage, we take for granted that things just happen. Now I can tell you this. Whenever I come in here, the years I've come in here, I've never seen a

dirty carpet. Okay. You know why? Why is that? Come on, why is it? Someone cleans it. Right. Okay, now I don't know who cleans it. Maybe you know, maybe you don't know. Someone does it. No small, that's not a small thing, or no big deal. Really? If there was trash all over this floor and somebody came in and saw it, you know the first thing they say, this is a mess. This place is a mess. That's a very important thing. Mowing the lawn, very important thing. Cleaning the church, cleaning the toilets. I don't know if somebody cleans those toilets. God bless you if you're a toilet cleaner. Okay? I think there's a special place. There's a special place in heaven for you. All right? Man, I'll tell you what, that is not the kind of job that I enjoy doing.

But somebody has to do it. And there's no task too small. Jesus said, If you give a cup of cold water in my name, you'll receive the reward. " You see? Well, I can't do that. Why not? Do what you can do. Something needs to be picked up, pick it up to be cleaned. If you can't clean it, somebody needs help, go ahead and do it. As the Principal and administrator of my school for many years, at the end of the day. One of the things I took on as a responsibility or really a blessing was I would dismiss the children. And the way we did it was the parents would come and pull up, they had numbers, a lot of them never put the numbers in the window, but I knew the families, I knew the cars.

And I had a walkie talkie and I would go on the walkie talkie and say, Hey, send out whoever, you know, send them out mom and daddy or send out Zion and his dad's here or whatever. And so you know, the child will go Out, get into the car. One thing I always made sure, though, very important to me, the child would come out, Stop for a minute. Look. Have a nice day. I made sure that they said goodbye, have a nice day. When they come in in the morning, every single child, every child that walked through that door in the morning, Mr. Hicks would say, Good morning. Good morning, Mr. Hicks." And if they didn't, I'd say, stop. Mr. Hicks said, good morning. Good morning. Mr. Hicks. " (Laughter) But just trying to teach them responsibility. So anyway, a lot of times, when I'm waiting for the parents, I'm waiting for the children, I would gather up all the trash. I said to the teachers, Put the trash in the hallway. I'll take the trash. I'll go down with a barrel and take the trash out." It helped them out, no big deal. And so one day I was taking out the trash in the dumpster, and one of the dads stopped me and goes, You take out the trash?

I said, yeah. He goes I thought you were the principal. I said, I am. Principals can take out the trash. You know, he thought that was like, wow, you know. No big deal. Somebody had to do it. I don't mind doing it. It helps. It's not a big deal. Matter of fact, a lot of times when Mr. Hicks went by with the barrels and the trash, don't you know? Can I take out the trash? Kids love to take out the trash. Of course, they get out of school for a few seconds, you know, which everybody likes that. But anyway no big deal. I don't ever think that any task is below me as a Christian, as a servant. It's not. And if you have to clean the bathrooms, I'll clean them. And we have in the past, we have a woman who volunteers to clean the bathrooms. Imagine cleaning the bathrooms every day after 60 kids, you know, every single day, five days a week, six days a week. Not an easy job. And so last year, when she was out with shoulder surgery, she asked my wife and I, can you guys clean the bathrooms?

I'm like, Oh, man. Okay. I did not want to clean the bathrooms. My wife was like, Sure, we'll clean the bathrooms. Not a fun job, really, but somebody had to do it. We did it. And so I'm encouraging you to understand the mind of Christ is to do whatever needs to be done. And here, he was a servant. And a servant is the greatest position you and I can achieve. John and his brother Were walking down the street and they asked the Lord, Can I sit on the right hand and your left hand in the kingdom?"

Jesus said, No, that's not for you, it's for whoever I have, the Father has it." They wanted to be left and

right, they wanted to be number one, right here, I want to be next to you, I want to be the top dogs, if you will. He said, No, that's not, you should not. " He said, He that is least among you, or he that is greatest among you, let him be your servant. You want to be great in the sight of God? Serve people. Serve people. Why don't you serve people? It's the greatest thing you can do. That's what Jesus did. He said, I came not to minister, but to give my life a ransom for many." And that's what I want to talk to you about as I finish up the message here. You see, a ransom for many, he said. A ransom.

Well, a ransom. What's a ransom ransom. A ransom is a payment for something to get something back. If someone's kidnapped Oftentimes they will ask for a ransom you send money supposedly they'll let that person go so it's a payment for getting something in return and you see when Jesus Christ died upon the cross for you and for me he gave himself as a ransom for you and for me he died for you excuse me and he died for me now he did. That because he loves us out of love Can you imagine that? The God of the universe, the creator and sustainer of life, who made all things, created all things, all things were made by Him and was not anything made that was not made by Him. That He came and died on the cross for you and me. You know what the Bible says about love? Greater love has no man than what? Than he laid down his life.