

## CHRISTIANS ARE TO HAVE A RENEWED MIND

Romans 12:16

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** There are many things that happen to a person who believes in Jesus Christ. He/she is born into the family of God, he/she is forgiven of his/her sins, he/she is indwelt with the Holy Spirit, he/she is transformed into a new person and in all this he/she is to have his/her mind renewed. What exactly does it mean to have one's mind renewed and how does that happen and what is the purpose for a renewed mind?

### I. CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE OF THE SAME MIND

1. What does having the same mind mean?
  - It is "being of the same mind toward one another."
  - It is "thinking the same thing."
  - It was frequently commanded to the early Christians:
    - in Rome - Romans 15:5
    - in Corinth - 1 Corinthians 1:10
    - in Philippi - Philippians 1:27; 2:2-3; 3:16; 4:2
    - in all of Asia - 1 Peter 3:8
  - When Christians are renewed in mind, they will start to have similar goals, aims and views.
2. How do Christians have the same mind?
  - By seeking the mind of Jesus Christ - Philippians 2:5
    - Every Christian should try his/her best to develop and imitate the mind set of Jesus Christ.
    - The more Christians become like Jesus, the sooner they become of "the same mind."
  - By setting one's mind on the things above - Colossians 3:1-2
    - Each Christian should focus his/her attention more and more on spiritual matters.
    - Being distracted by worldly matters and human opinions will destroy oneness of mind.
  - Where there is not unity, someone is not setting his/her mind on Jesus and things above.

### II. CHRISTIANS ARE TO HAVE A LOWLINESS OF MIND

1. What does being lowly of mind mean?
  - Not setting one's mind on high things:
    - Do not be haughty
    - Do not be too ambitious
    - Do not aspire to eminence
    - Don't become snobbish
  - To associate with the humble:
    - associate with the lowly
    - accept humble duties, tasks
    - willingly adjust oneself to humble situations
    - take a real, genuine interest in people.
  - A renewed mind takes a concerted effort not to be snobbish or ambitious and is willing to be associated with humble tasks with and for lowly people.
2. How does one become lowly of mind?
  - By paying attention to what one learns from:
    - David's attitude - Psalm 131:1-2

- Jeremiah's warning - Jeremiah 45:5
- Jesus' teachings - Luke 22:24-27
- By examining what one has learned from:
  - Jesus' example - Philippians 2:5-8
  - James' teachings - James 2:1-5t
- When one has the mind of Jesus Christ, his/her lowliness of mind will be manifested (revealed) by the nature of his/her goals and the company he/she keeps.

### III. A CHRISTIAN THAT IS HUMBLE OF MIND

1. What does it mean for a person to be humble of mind?
  - "Not being wise in one's own opinion.
  - Not thinking too highly of one's self
    - Not being conceited
    - Not thinking that he/she knows it all
  - Warnings from the Scriptures:
    - Solomon gives warnings - Proverbs 3:7; 26:12
    - Isaiah gave warnings - Isaiah 5:21
    - Paul gave warnings - 1 Corinthians 3:18
  - A renewed mind will maintain a strong sense of humility, an awareness that one has much yet to learn from God and others.
  
2. How does one become humble of mind?
  - By listening to what the Scriptures say/teach:
    - 1 Corinthians 8:2
    - The wisdom of the world is to God, foolishness - 1 Corinthians 1:20
    - Not many are receptive to the Gospel - 1 Corinthians 1:26
    - God has chosen to confound the arrogant in their wisdom - 1 Corinthians 1:27-29
  - By adding knowledge and experience:
    - The more one learns, hopefully the more one will realize just how much he/she doesn't know.
    - The older one gets, the more he/she realizes just how little he/she really knows.
  - By the example of Jesus Christ:
    - Jesus was willing to submit to the will of His Father - John 6:38; 5:30
    - Jesus didn't think so highly of Himself that He viewed equality with God something to brag about and exploit - Philippians 2:6
  - By adopting the mind of Jesus Christ will go a long way to help maintain humility about one's self.

### CONCLUSION:

1. The more one adopts the mind of Jesus Christ, and make it one's own:
  - The more one will think like Jesus.
  - The less one will be snobish and ambitious over the wrong things.
  - The more one will associate with the poor, the less fortunate.
  - The less conceited and arrogant one will be.
  
2. Christian! Are YOU setting YOUR mind on things above, where Jesus is? Are YOU allowing the Holy Spirit to renew YOUR mind?

