

The Mindset of Christ

The bible says My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children. Hosea 4:6

If we perish because of lack of knowledge then by inference we live because of a dimension of revelation we walk in. Today I want to share with you a dimension of revelation that directly relates to your spiritual promotion. It is counterintuitive when compared with our prevailing culture. It is truly embracing the mindset of Christ. Many people glorify their personalities. Your subconscious mind (heart) is continuously picking up values attributes and standards. This causes you to be happy, sad or mad. The bible calls us to intentionally embrace Christ's mindset. Are you living by design or by default? How has the gospel transformed you? Sadly, humanism has crept into the church. There are many ways in which we reject knowledge. We reject knowledge through laziness and lack of revelation.

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

Mindset/attitude = Phroneo = inner-perspective (insight) shows itself in corresponding, outward behaviour. 5426 (phronéō) essentially equates to personal opinion fleshing itself out in action. The parts around the heart. This idea is difficult to translate into English because it combines the visceral and cognitive aspects of thinking. Visceral is to do with deep inward feelings.

⁶ *Who, being in very nature^[a] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

Some translations say grasped = harpagmós – to seize, especially by an open display of force.

⁷ *rather, he made himself nothing*

Kenos - properly, to empty out, render void; (passive) be emptied – hence, without recognition, perceived as valueless

In Mt 20 Jesus teaches that the way to greatness is through servanthood. Often we study Jesus' acts but not His mindset. We need to empty ourselves of anything that competes with Christ. In Christ alone is our identity. Why are we often offended? It's because we haven't emptied ourselves.

Paul did this. *Phil 3:7-9 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him*

Are you willing to be stripped of these things?

Are they still part of your identity?

Do you like to talk about them when you first meet people?

Jesus told me that I bear Christ's name therefore I don't need to attach other names to myself.

If you don't make yourself nothing you will live bound by the fear that someone one day will do so to you. You live with this anxiety gap.

by taking the very nature^{bl} of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! ⁹

Humbled himself = tapeinóō – make (become) low, to humble.

Ginomai: to come into being, to happen, to become, to be born, to transition, to grow

Obedient = hupekoos = listening to, obedient, submissive.

We are called to have the same mindset, which includes obedience to our “cross”.

Humility is central to Christlikeness. *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. -Matthew 11:29 (NIV)*

Even Unto death = as far as death. How far does your obedience go? Lord I will serve you as long as it remains comfortable. Lord I will serve you as long as my lifestyle is not affected. Lord I will serve you as long as I don't have to give up this or that. Jesus' obedience was unto death.

Eg lady from Bank with anxiety gap.

To share your weakness is to make yourself vulnerable; to make yourself vulnerable is to show your strength.” — Criss Jami

Vulnerability is the quality or state of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked and harmed, either physically or emotionally. How would vulnerability being shown change your relationships? The threat of intimacy. You cannot have emotional intimacy with someone if there is no vulnerability.

Jesus made Himself vulnerable throughout His ministry: At the cross as they teased Him and challenged Him to get down. In Gethsemane when He wanted the prayer support of His friends. In the early part of His ministry when He did not reveal who He was. Also when He allowed John to baptise Him. In all this He was meek. He lowered Himself and took the guise of a servant. When we project an ideal image of ourselves it often results in anxiety and very little connection.

“Staying vulnerable is a risk we have to take if we want to experience connection.” – Brené Brown

The most powerful event in human history occurred through someone lowering themselves. The most powerful things in your life will happen in weakness. Let’s copy Jesus. Imitation is the highest form of praise.

Mt 26:36-45

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” 37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch[a] with me.” 39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” 40 And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” 42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” 43 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. 45 Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on.

Paul Coehlo in 11 Minutes – The strongest love is the love that can demonstrate its fragility.

When you are not vulnerable then your husband has no beauty to rescue. He just has a protester to avoid. Paul Nyamuda

Intimacy can be intimidating. However, it is an amazingly freeing experience when you can be completely who you are with someone you totally trust. Barton Goldsmith

Dr Andra Brosh: When you make yourself vulnerable you are able to express your most sacred thoughts and feelings, you can share yourself with others authentically and without apology. Vulnerability is also about exposing your flaws, secrets, and darker sides without shame.

The capacity to be vulnerable depends on many things: upbringing, level of courage, feeling of safety. What stops you from making yourself vulnerable? If you think of emotional expression as being weak, then you’ll resist being vulnerable. If you learn to value your own feelings and see them as important, you will be more compelled to express yourself.

Avoiding vulnerability results in Disconnection; Feeling unsupported; Loneliness; Disappointment; Lack of transparency; Unconfessed sin; Emotional Distance; Feeling Misunderstood; Anxiety Gaps where you are bound by the fear of being found out and general Frustration.

Try to be clear about your needs: Examples might be “I’m struggling a bit at work and I need your support” or “I’m feeling lonely in our relationship.”

What are you doing to intentionally lower yourself?

Signs of Humility

1. You are willing to get correction from anyone, even if you see them as less experienced.
2. You recognize your own frailty before God
3. You are not presumptuous
4. You do not have an entitlement mentality, that thinks it deserves everything good
5. You are grateful, even for the small things in life
6. You honour everyone around you, recognizing that they are a fellow human being, created in God’s image
7. You enquire of the Lord and don’t trust your own ability or intellect
8. You do things for the audience of One (God), you would still do it even if no one was going to find out.
9. You know that better men (or women) than you have fallen
10. You know that no sin is beyond you
11. You know that you are not beyond deception
12. You receive those that the Lord sends to you
13. You recognize your ignorance and your limitations
14. You are obedient even if it causes humiliation on your part (some people are too proud to accept certain jobs)
15. You pray from a place of humility and allow God to guide you
16. You are full of faith because you take God at His word
17. You can boast of your weaknesses like Paul – 2 Corinthians 11:30 (NIV) Pauls says, “If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

huperupsoó: to exalt beyond measure. Charizomai: to show favor, give freely. Jesus was shown favour by being given this name. This shows us that favour is freely given yet it is triggered by our posture to receive it. It says because Jesus lowered Himself THEREFORE He was granted this freely.

Above = Uper = over, beyond, fig. on behalf of, for the sake of, for the benefit of , concerning

You can be honoured by men but dishonoured and insignificant in the spirit realm. Jesus was significant in the spirit realm yet on earth they spat at Him.

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **onoma: a name, authority, cause**

This gives you confidence in warfare. This part is not just at the end of the ages.

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Glóssa: the tongue, a language, nation.

All nations should just accept Jesus now because at some point they will have to acknowledge him anyway.

We already know who has won the war. WE NEED TO LIVE FROM THIS PLACE OF VICTORY.

Matthew Henry: *But the lowest step was his dying the death of the cross, the death of a malefactor and a slave; exposed to public hatred and scorn. The exaltation was of Christ's human nature, in union with the Divine. At the name of Jesus, not the mere sound of the word, but the authority of Jesus, all should pay solemn homage. It is to the glory of God the Father, to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord; for it is his will, that all men should honour the Son as they honour the Father, Joh 5:23. Here we see such motives to self-denying love as nothing else can supply. Do we thus love and obey the Son of God?*