

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
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“Be of the Same Mind One Toward Another.” Part Two

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 12:16

“Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.” (King James Version)

“Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.” (New King James Version)

“Be in agreement with one another. Do not be proud; instead, associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own estimation.” (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

GOAL: To understand the spiritual importance of “Being of the same mind”.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Explore connections between “being of the same mind” and the love and grace of God.
2. Discuss and explain problems that arise when we are of a “different mind” toward one another.
3. Explore how Jesus Christ demonstrated “sameness of mind” with the Father in his thoughts, attitude, and actions.

INTRODUCTION

Last month, we discovered that sameness of mind for believers is having love and affection toward each other and being of the same accord. The more we evolve into the likeness of Christ, the more we will become of the same mind. This renewed mind will exhibit humility. In fact, we learn from Philippians 2:3; *to do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility esteem others better than yourselves*. Our identity or sameness of mind is not shaped simply by who we are as individuals but also by the spiritual family in which God has placed us.

Being Like-minded Is to Pursue the Mind of Christ.

(Romans 15:5-7, Philippians 2: 1-8, I Peter 3:8 and I Corinthians 1: 10-14).

To pursue the mind of Christ is to surrender to God’s will, individually and corporately, as the body of Christ. *(Rom. 12: 1)* How is this to be accomplished when the church is such a diverse body—in age, professions, economic status, attitudes and opinions? Paul admonishes us to live lives that are worthy of the Gospel of Christ. *(Col. 1:10)* We must allow God’s spiritual values to prevail in our lives so that we can put to death practices

which belong to our earthly nature. (*Col. 1:1-3*) Our salvation was and is secured because of Christ's perfect obedience to God, the Father. The benefits we experience as a result of being in intimate relationship with Christ ought to motivate us to maintain unity in the fellowship by putting on the mind of Christ together. (*Phil 2: 1-5*) His perfect example ought to be reflected in our relationships with each other.

A fellowship characterized by divisiveness, strife, condemnation, conflict, selfish ambition and pride is, in no way, a reflection of the attitude of Christ! James 3:16 tell us, "*For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there*". As true believers, we should never be high-minded or conceited, or think of ourselves more highly than we ought. (Romans 12:16, 12:3) When we are bonded in love, and on the same accord, it strengthens the Church and the faith of its believers.

To be like-minded for Christians and to pursue the mind of Christ is to share mutual love for one another. This is not easy, but when we are united in love and pursue oneness with each other, our faith and fellowship becomes strengthened. Being one in Christ is the foundation of true fellowship and is demonstrated by our unity.

Jesus was the epitome of selfless love, perfect obedience, and humility as He laid aside His divinity to redeem us. (*Phil. 2: 8*) Seeing each other through God's eyes (*so full of love and grace*) will allow us to encourage, nurture, and walk alongside each other in unity, as we become servants of the living God.

SUMMARY/REVIEW/CLOSURE:

¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. John 13:13-17 (ESV)

Can you imagine Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church as a place where every member was willing to wash another member's feet? Jesus' example was a lesson in humility but it sets forth the principle of selfless service that was to soon be exemplified in the cross.⁷ His persistence, in spite of Peter's initial rejection, enabled His disciples to experience His example of humility and a life-changing demonstration of the highest meaning of "*being of the same mind one towards another.*"

We are messengers of the living Gospel of Jesus Christ! Our spirit of meekness is demonstrated in our willingness to subject ourselves to the lowest estate for the sake of others. There is a story of old that helps us to understand "meekness" as exemplified by Christ. Whenever someone took possession of a strong and beautiful stallion, getting that powerful horse to obey the voice of his master was the primary work of the owner. When this was accomplished, that

horse was known as “meek”. While the world would have us believe that meekness is a sign of weakness, God helps us to understand the true meaning of meekness—POWER UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MASTER! Only when we surrender “all of who we are” to our Lord, will we become servants of a Holy God! Jesus makes the message clear. ***“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you...Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (John 13: 15, 17.)*** Jesus’ simple act of washing feet ought to challenge our commitment to servanthood. Then we can sing with the hymn writer...

“O we never can know what the Lord will bestow. Of the blessings for which we have prayed. ‘Till our body and soul He doth fully control, And our all on the altar is laid!’”

Hoffman, Elisha A. (2001). *“Is your all on the Altar?”* **African American Heritage Hymnal.**
Chicago, IL: Gia Publications.

May God be praised!

DISCUSSION/APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. What would be the witness of the church if we were of one mind with Christ?
2. What can you do today to ensure that we are operating with the “mind of Christ” in the church?

ASSIGNMENT/JOURNAL EXERCISE:

In your efforts to be of the same mind one toward another and as you pursue the “mind of Christ”, take a personal inventory of your relationships in the church. Do your attitudes and actions towards your brothers in sisters in Christ align with Christ’s example? Prayerfully, ask God to reveal areas where you can grow to be more like Christ?