

The Spirit of Christ

Int.

1. Aim: To show what it means to have the spirit of Christ and how important it is.
2. Text - Rm. 8:5-9 v. 9 NKJV "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."
 - a. Paul recognized the fact that man lives in the flesh
 - i. He did not say that while we are living we are not living in the flesh.
 - ii. He is saying that as we live in the flesh we are not to please the flesh, but to walk according to the spirit of Christ - not according to the spirit of the flesh.
 - iii. Col. 3:2 "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."
 - b. If I can understand what it means to have the "Spirit of Christ" then I am able to live the kind of a life that God wants me to live.
 - i. If I don't live that kind of life it means spiritual death
 - ii. Paul says that unless I have the "Spirit of Christ" then we are not saved.
3. Most people have a mistaken idea about the "Spirit of Christ".
 - a. They look at him as if he were some sissy that is afraid of everyone and so weak he would not oppose anyone for anything.
 - b. Some have the view of Christ that he cannot decide what side of an issue he is on until he checks the pulse of public opinion like most politicians today.
4. We must understand what it means to have the "Spirit of Christ" because our salvation depends upon it.
5. We must have the "Spirit of Christ" concerning ...

Discussion

I. PERSONAL INJURY AND INSULT

A. Notice how the Lord manifested himself toward personal injury and insult

1. I Pet. 2:21-23

- a. He left us an example
- b. Guile was not found in his mouth = deceit
- c. He did not revile those who reviled him = verbal abuse
- d. Although he suffered, he threatened not = intention to inflict injury
- e. This is the "Spirit of Christ"

2. That is the example we are to follow

- a. Even when he was dying on the cross he said "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Lk. 23:34
- b. Before he was crucified he had taught the people: "To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also." Luke 6:29 NKJV
- c. This is the Christ who lived as an example for us to follow.

B. We can all benefit and profit by having a little more of that "Spirit of Christ" in us about personal injury and insult

II. ANOTHER IDEA ABOUT THE "Spirit of Christ" is of SERVICE

A. Notice these verses

1. Mk. 10:45 "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

2. Jn. 13:14 "If I then, your Lord and master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet."

- B. There is much confusion about the subject of foot washing.
1. Some religious groups meet together to wash feet as an act of worship unto God.
 2. We in the church today are to have the "Spirit of Christ" that he demonstrated in washing feet, but it is not an act of worship unto God, because it never was an act of worship.
 3. The spirit of humility and the spirit of service that characterized the Lord on that occasion should characterize us today.
 4. Remember Paul said in writing about widows: "If she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet." 1 Tim. 5:10
 - a. What does that mean?
 - b. This widow had been faithful in service to others.
 - c. It does not mean that she had taken off her shoes and stockings in the meeting house and then exposed clean feet that have been scrubbed before coming to service, and then have someone go through the motions of washing feet that have already been washed.
 - d. That would be mockery in the sight of God.
 5. The feet of these disciples on this occasion in Jn 13 needed washing
 6. These humble servants of God received a blessing from the Master who was willing to humiliate himself to the point of washing the feet of his disciples.
 7. What is the act of foot washing.
 - a. It is an act of service unto our fellow man - not an act of worship to God.
 - b. You couldn't worship God by washing my feet.
 - c. You can serve your fellow man in all kinds of acts of service. You can even bathe the body of that individual whose body needs your care.

d. Jesus said: "If I, your Lord and Master, have served, then you ought to serve."

John 13:14

e. I go out and help other people and you ought to do the same.

f. Humble attitude of service to our fellow man

g. This is the "Spirit of Christ" that we can imitate in our life by serving others.

C. Phil. 2:5-7 " Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:"

1. The Lord came down to this low land of sin and sorrow and became a man.

2. That was a step down for the Lord.

3. He left heaven and its glory and came down to this earth to become a servant. That is the spirit of Christ !

D. Rom. 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."

1. That is the "Spirit of Christ" concerning service to others.

2. Other people could receive the blessings that He could give and they needed the blessings.

3. We are to be kindly affectioned one toward another in honour preferring one another.

4. That's the "Spirit of Christ" concerning service to other people

III. NOW NOTICE THE "Spirit of Christ" regarding OBEDIENCE

A. Verses that discuss the importance of OBEDIENCE

1. Phil. 2:8 "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Obedient = attentively listening, submissive, to heed or conform
2. Heb. 5:8,9 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."
3. Jn.3:3-5 "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Then Nicodemus said: "Can I enter my mother's womb when I am old and be born again." The Lord replied "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

B. Watch how obedience is involved in having the "Spirit of Christ"

1. In Phil. 2:8 and Heb. 5:8, 9 we read about Christ being obedient even dying to become the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.
2. Nicodemus was instructed to be born again if he expected to go to heaven.
3. When the Lord was about to leave this earth he said: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:15-16
4. You cannot have the "Spirit of Christ" unless you have his spirit of obedience. He was obedient even to the death on the cross.
5. He has commanded us to be born again and that involves baptism because he said "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

6. If we are going to be obedient then we must have the same spirit of obedience that Christ had. He does not expect us to die on the cross but he does expect that we are obedient to all his commands.
 - a. He teaches us that faith is essential - Jn. 8:24
 - b. He also says that repentance is essential - Lk. 13:3
 - c. He says that confession is essential - Mt. 10:32-33
 - d. He likewise teaches that baptism is also essential - Mk. 16:16

7. Now some people have a problem when it comes to baptism
 - a. They say they can see that faith is essential, and repentance and confession is essential.
 - b. But they do not see through the commands of the essentiality of baptism.
 - c. If you have the "Spirit of Christ" in regard to obedience then you will have no problem seeing that baptism is required.
 - d. The same Bible that teaches the others teaches this also.
 - (1) Faith - Heb. 11:6 "Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
 - (2) Repentance - Acts 17:30
 - (3) Confession - Rm. 10:10
 - (4) These things are demanded of you and if you have the "Spirit of Christ" you will obey all of these.
 - (5) But then notice that obedience is also required about baptism
 - (6) Mk.16:16 Acts 22:16 I Pet. 3:21

- C. Obedience is necessary if one is to have the "Spirit of Christ"!
1. One person was being taught and he made the statement - "I would not mind being a Christian if I didn't have to be baptized".
 2. Some people have the idea that they are doing God a favor when they obey the gospel.
 3. That's the wrong attitude! It is not the attitude of having the "Spirit of Christ"!
 4. He left us an example of Obedience - doing what we are commanded to do without any question

IV. WE MUST HAVE A HIGH REGARD FOR GOD'S WORD

- A. Jesus had high regard for His Father's Words
1. Mt. 21:12-13 - He overthrew the tables of the money changers.
 2. Mt. 23:33 - Jesus denounced the Pharisees: "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"
- B. Some people might be wondering if he was demonstrating the "Spirit of Christ" in saying such things!
1. That is the spirit of the Lord according to the teaching of the Bible.
 2. It is not exactly what men think when they discuss the "Spirit of Christ".
 3. We like to think of Christ as a meek and lowly man from Nazareth. The pictures of Jesus show him to be a weak character with a pale complexion and almost feminine in character.

4. That's not the picture we have of Him as described in the Bible.
 - a. He was a man's man.
 - b. He was not a feminine type of individual
 - c. He wasn't a person who was so weak and undecided he couldn't make up his mind until he knew what was the popular thing to do.
5. Yes Jesus was a meek and lowly man:
 - a. He could go into a home and put his hand on the head of little children and bless them.
 - b. Little boys and girls loved him and liked to be around him.
 - c. He was friendly
 - d. He was able to go and talk to people who were bereaved and comfort them - as he did Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus - he even cried on that occasion.
 - e. He could be touched by our feelings.
6. But at the same time He was a Lion of Judah
 - a. He could stand up and denounce those filthy Pharisees to their teeth and say "You generation of vipers".
 - b. He said "You are like whited sepulchres." - inside of a grave where the body is decaying - Jesus said they were that kind of people.
 - c. That is the "Spirit of Christ" - denouncing error when people were violating his Father's Word.

C. Christ was always demonstrating the right spirit

1. When they:
 - a. Slapped him on the one cheek, he was able to turn the other.
 - b. Demanded of him his coat, he was able to give his cloak also.
 - c. Required him to go a mile, he could go two
2. He said that the disciples were to follow his example and do the same.
3. But when His Father's Word was called in question, and when it was being violated by wicked men who were leading people away from the truth of the gospel, then he stood up before them and called them what they were.
4. That is the Spirit of Christ"

D. Here is an example of someone who had this spirit

1. Acts 7:51 - Stephen
2. Stephen told the people about the things that their fathers had done and then he came to the climax because some of those wicked Jews were standing there ready to deny every word he had preached. He said "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do ye."
3. That was when they could stand it no more and they put him to death. — They stoned him with stones.
4. Was Stephen following the "Spirit of Christ"? Yes! He was denouncing the wicked Jews just exactly as Jesus was denouncing the Pharisees. He had the same spirit as Christ.

5. They crucified Jesus and they killed Stephen by stoning him to death.
 - a. As Jesus was dying he said "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."
 - b. As Stephen was dying he prayed to God "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."
6. With regard to God and his Word Stephen demonstrated the "Spirit of Christ" and at the same time when they were putting him to death he also demonstrated the "Spirit of Christ" with regard to personal injury and personal insult.
7. With regard to personal injury he is the Lamb of God.
8. With regard to his Father's Word - He is the Lion of Judah.

CONCLUSION

1. Paul says "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2:5
 - a. He means that man is conformed to the image of Christ as he has the mind of Christ and the spirit of Christ.
 - b. We all need to work harder at developing the mind of Christ or the "Spirit of Christ" in regard to:
 - i. Insult or Injury
 - ii. Service to others
 - iii. Obedience
 - iv. The Father's Word.
2. It is sometimes hard for us to have the "Spirit of Christ" in regard to personal injury or insult - It is hard to turn the other cheek - we have the tendency to want to strike back and Christ teaches us to be calm.

3. At the same time when some one makes fun of my Father's Word we are prone to excuse that because we do not want to get into an argument. I need more of the "Spirit of Christ" that will not allow this to happen .
4. Do you have the "Spirit of Christ" in regard to obedience?
 - a. If so you will obey
 - b. If you do not then remember he says that we are none of his.
5. The spirit of Christ will then be manifested in a life of service to your fellow man !

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