



THE MIND OF CHRIST AND THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Phil. 2:5, 1:9-11

Phil. 2:5 **Let this mind be in you**, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Phil. 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment;
10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;
11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

I. THE PERCEPTION OF THE CONCEPT

Phil. 2:5 **Let this mind be in you**, which was also in Christ Jesus:

A. The Imperative – “Let this mind...”

B. The Influence – “...be in you...”

C. The Imitation – “...which was also in Christ Jesus:”

Rom. 6:4 1 Cor. 11:1 Phil. 3:17



II. THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

Mt. 6:10, 26:42

A. The Fellowship in the Gospel, Phil. 1:3-7

B. The Force Within the Gospel, Phil. 1:9-11

1. Love Abounding, 1:9

Phil. 1:9 And this I pray, that **your love may abound** yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment;

- God's love is acquired at salvation – the foundation for discipleship!
- Divine love received becomes discipleship love radiated
- God's love is not static but dynamic – it is to “abound yet more and more” - indicating spiritual growth!
- God's love is a spiritual influence in a carnal world.
- God's love is focused on giving OF self not gaining FOR self.
- The emphasis of love's abounding is in depth and discernment.

Last week we saw “Love Abounding” – this characteristic is a reflection of God’s work in our hearts that began at salvation and becomes our **“lifestyle foundation” – all that we are or are to become is dependent upon God’s love working in our heart for Him and for others.**

As we look at this passage, we see a sequential pattern of development in the life of a believer that is growing in grace:

- Abounding love produces depth and discernment.
- Such discernment gives confidence or “approval” for what is genuine, or excellent.
- Such “excellence” produces sincerity radiating from a believer’s life.
- Such excellence for a believer is a lifetime that is rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ!

2. Love Approved, 1:10

Phil. 1:10 That ye may **approve** things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

- Spiritual growth includes the ability to “approve things that are excellent.”
- A believer is to know what is “genuine.”

Original Word: δοκιμάζω

Transliteration: dokimazo

Definition: I put to the test, prove, examine; I distinguish by testing, **approve after testing**; I am fit.

dokimázō (from *dókimos*, "approved") – properly, to try (test) to show something is acceptable (real, approved); put to the test to reveal what is good (genuine).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1381.htm>

- By knowing what is genuine, one will spot the counterfeit.
- The Scriptures indicate several examples of such “approval”:

Rom. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may **prove** what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1 Cor. 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall **try** every man's work of what sort it is.

2 Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; **prove** your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Gal. 6:4 But let every man **prove** his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

1 Jn. 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but **try** the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

- The “approval” is to detect the genuineness of what is “excellent.”

Phil. 1:10 That ye may approve things that are **excellent**; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Original Word: διαφέρω

Transliteration: diapheró

Short Definition: I carry through, differ, surpass, excel

diaphérō ("distinguishing what differs") underlines the *key difference in meaning* involved, i.e. *separating* (distinguishing from) the one element in a comparison (its value) *from another*.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1308.htm>

- The word “excellent” means knowing the “difference” regarding characteristics and quality of *better and best*, not just good and bad.
- A believer is to assess, and then pursue a life of excellence – according to God’s standard!

In verse 9, the prayer is focused upon a believer’s heart.

In verse 10, the prayer is focused upon a believer’s head – the mind.

- A believer is NOT to live life by the “seat of the pants.”
- It is estimated that five percent of the people think,

- Fifteen percent of the people think they think,
- Eighty percent of the people would rather die than think.
- A believer is to have a pure heart guided by a level head.

Rom. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may **prove** what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Phil. 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, **think on these things.**

1 Thess. 5:21 **Prove** all things; hold fast that which is good.

- The effect of having a pure heart and level head is a believer that is consistent in living like Christ.

Phil. 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; **that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;**

Original Word: εἰλικρινῆς

Transliteration: eilikrinés

Short Definition: pure, uncontaminated, sincere

eilikrinés (from *heilē*, "shining of the sun" and *krystallízō*, "to judge") – properly, *rightly* judged because seen in *full light*; (figuratively) *judged* in the *rays of God's light*, i.e. with *divine clarity* (spiritual vision) which results in *real insight* (discernment).

eilikrinés ("sincere because transparent") describes something *proven* because *well-examined* (totally scrutinized) – therefore, *certified as sincere* (inwardly pure). (*eilikrinés*) naturally refers to something *completely clear*, free from hypocrisy (deceit, wickedness), which *stands in the full light* of God's approval. This term is used twice in the NT (Phil 1:10; 2 Pet 3:1). <http://biblehub.com/greek/1506.htm>

2 Pet. 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in *both* which I stir up your **pure minds** by way of remembrance:

- First step: accommodating the world.
- The second step is legitimatizing the world.
- The third step is assimilating to the world.
- The fourth step is participating with the world.
- The fifth step is amalgamating the world into one's life.
- The last step is identifying with the world.

Rom. 12:9 **Let love be without dissimulation.** Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

2 Cor. 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that **in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world,** and more abundantly to you-ward.

Summary

The sequential steps are...

- Love from God, working in and through the believer – a pure heart.
- Such love leads to “approval” – proving that a believer knows the genuineness of what is believed – a level head.
- Such genuineness leads to discernment of excellence, incorporated in the life of a believer.
- Such excellence leads to a believer living a lifetime like Christ.

Conclusion

2 Cor. 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, **known and read of all men:**

Heb. 6:9 But, beloved, **we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation**, though we thus speak.

Rom. 12:9 **Let love be without dissimulation.** Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

2 Cor. 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that **in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world**, and more abundantly to you-ward.

2 Cor. 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

10 For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**; that every one may receive the things done in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it* be good or bad.