

Theme: If we can win the battle for the mind, such that the mind of Christ fills our mind – there is no enemy, trial, battle, or temptation we ever need to fear.

Background: United to Christ, and with Christ in us. We *have* the mind of Christ.

Introduction: The “Heaven and Hell Machine” reveals what people really think.

I. Destroying Strongholds

A. The Battle for the Mind

1. Broken because of disease - mental illness - depression
2. Broken because of sin!
 - We lose the ability to discern lies of world, flesh, devil
 - The battle with sin always starts in the mind.

B. Our Strongholds!

- a. The world’s strongholds? “...isms”
- b. Strongholds in me??
 - Anything that keeps the truth of God the Lord at arm’s length

NOTE: The strongholds aren’t just out in the world; they are truly in my own mind.

II. Taking Every Thought Captive

A. Under Whose Control

1. Obedient to Christ “take captive to obey Christ”
2. Making the mind *mind!* (Romans 7:19, 24)
 - We must learn to fight the battle for the mind!

B. Five Important Principles - to having and using “The Mind of Christ”

1. Compare my thoughts to His

I can always trust the word of God. I cannot always trust my thoughts!

- a. Don’t trust your own thoughts – test them.
 - We have serious mental illness – Sin!
(1 Timothy 6:5; 2 Corinthians 3:14, 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:8)
 - We naturally trust our own thoughts.
 - They aren’t trustworthy (Jeremiah 17:9)

b. **Trust the Word of God**

- 1) My mind always tells me “my way” is better than God’s
 - I think I know better
 - I/We have major “blind spots”
- 2) Know the Word/Truth/Life

II. *Taking Every Thought Captive (cont.)*

B. Five Important Principles - to having and using "The Mind of Christ" (cont.)

2. Feed your mind well!

-What do you feed your body?

a. Brain food (Philippians 4:8,9)

- It's *clearly* good for you

b. Junk food (1 Corinthians 6:12)

- Empty calories. Not bad – but not profitable.

- Jerry Bridges – "The Pursuit of Holiness" (Chp.9)

c. Poison!

- Clearly contrary to God's word – and deadly!

- Psalm 101:3

3. Think on things above. (Colossians 3:2)

- Things that have eternity attached to them

- Things that will last

4. Live by your convictions! (Romans 8:38,39)

- Not by preferences or opinions

- But on things that truly matter

What are your deepest convictions – and on what are they based?

5. Pray unceasingly. (Philippians 4:6,7)

- Don't worry about anything. Pray about everything.

- Always turning to, and returning to the Savior!

III. *In Obedience to Christ*

1. He is tearing down strongholds (inward and outward)

2. What happens when we come under His control?

- We will exhibit the mind of Christ

- We will express the love of Christ

- We will accomplish the work of Christ

- We will experience the love and grace of Christ