

MIND-TO-MIND

By

Curtis Dickinson

As man came fresh from the hand of God, in God's image, there existed between the two a perfect spiritual relationship, a mind-to-mind relationship, where Adam was privileged to think God's thoughts after him and thus reflect His image in his innermost person and being.

What happened in the Garden is a preview, a kind of history in miniature, showing what lies at the core of man's problem and also the only solution. Mankind consistently follows the path of Adam, listening to the wrong voice, eating at the wrong tree, and aligning himself on the wrong side, for Adam not only disobeyed God, he rebelled against Him and became an ally of the devil.

While the creature was given a mind by the Creator, he was not to use it as an independent being, to devise his own philosophy of himself and the world and pursue it as his imagination and genius allowed. Rather he was to use it in harmony with the mind of his Maker in order to fulfill his lofty and superior goals.

Such harmony is demonstrated by the relationship between Jesus and the Father. "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). The first argument of record that Jesus ever made was to Satan in defense of the mind of God. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). Note: "every word", not just a select few, but by the whole mind of God. Jesus obviously knew and understood every word of the Father, being the Word incarnate. "I do always the things that are pleasing to my Father," He said. When given the choice of obedience unto death or saving his life from the horrors of crucifixion, His prayer was, "Not my will but thine be done." He had a perfect mind-to-mind relationship with the Father, and therefore was totally without sin.

The problem arose in the garden when Adam turned his mind from God to another. Satan's message was designed for this purpose. First he raised a question. "Has God said...?" then came the lie. "Thou shall NOT surely die," he said, although God had explicitly said that Adam would die if he ate of the forbidden tree. Finally he declared that Adam would be better off to abandon this mind-to-mind relationship with God and launch out on his own. "You shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." This is to say that Adam didn't need God's mind; he could decide for himself what was right and wrong. He could reach fulfillment ("Find himself" as they say) by doing his own will instead of God's, by rejecting the thoughts of God and living by his own.

Such a mind-set is the exact opposite to what he was created for. Instead of his mind bringing him into closer union with God, it draws him away. Instead of being lifted higher and higher to a holy and glorious purpose of the Creator, he now flounders around in his own imaginations, ever falling to lower levels and thus defeating God's purpose. The inevitable result was the reversal of the creation process. "For dust you are, and unto dust you shall return" (Gen. 3:19). As was echoed by the prophets and the Apostles: "The wages of sin is death."

The drastic consequences of breaking the mind-to-mind connection with the Creator are demonstrated in Christ, the second Adam. On the cross He was “made to be sin on our behalf” (II Cor. 5:21). He who had lived in perfect harmony with the Father, whose mind had never followed one single thought in opposition to the mind of the Father, at last willingly (and this in obedience to the Father’s revelation of His mind to Jesus) was willing to bear all our sins and receive the death blow in our place. As He hung on the cross under the vile wickedness and filthy sins that were poured into His innocent being, He was viewed from Heaven as a sinner. The fellowship broken, he cried out, “My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?” Alone, He died.

Here we see the pitiful picture of all mankind who stand outside the circle of Grace. Separated from God. Unfit for His holy presence, hence no fellowship with the Creator. Minds set on opposite courses, hence no guidance through life. Miserable, lonely, forsaken, searching everywhere for meaning, for friends, for pleasure to fill the emptiness — but nothing satisfies! Laden with sin, forsaken by God and dying. That’s the picture of Adam after breaking off with God, and that’s the picture of mankind as he stands today (Rom. 1:28). The daily headlines, like powerful blows from a mortal enemy, pound us incessantly with the shattering news of crime, humanism, materialism, national suicide and spiritual degeneracy. Institutions once seen as responsible instruments against immoral forces are ineffective, most of them having become morally bankrupt.

The media, the government and educational institutions, while declaring themselves to be neutral, usually throw support to the cause of humanism at the expense of Christian values.

Man has rejected the mind of God for the right to be as “gods, knowing good and evil,” and the result of his alienation from God is a constant state of despair, defeat, hopelessness and fear, like the violent death-throes of a doomed giant, once the crown of all creation but now fallen and weakened, desperately struggling to survive to the end of a dead-end road.

After the garden incident, God had a message of hope. The “seed of the woman” was to bruise the head of the serpent. The “seed” un-mistakenly refers to Christ, born of a virgin, borne of woman but not of the seed of man. As a token and type of the solution to be found in Christ’s death for sin, animals were slain and God used their skins to clothe Adam and Eve. In the fullness of time Christ came, announcing that He is the way, the truth and the Life. He is the way back to the Father. He reveals the truth, the mind of God to man, that the curse of death may be removed and life obtained.

By rejecting the mind of God man destroyed the mind-to-mind connection with the One who created him for such a fellowship. The only solution to man’s dilemma is to have this connection restored.

The urgent need is not to find new worlds to explore. Not to find new methods of drowning the old sorrows. Not to reach for new heights of success in a variety of alternative purposes. It is not for innovative church programs, fabulous and personable church leaders and new techniques for manipulation.

The answer to each man’s grinding anguish of spirit and to each person’s lonely and bitter frustration is the same — to love God “with all thy strength and with thy mind” (Luke 10:27). To this end He has revealed His mind in the Scripture by the power of the holy spirit. The mind of the spirit is the mind of God, and is found by searching the scripture.

This is why doctrine is essential. Doctrine simply means teaching, and the Christian doctrine is the teaching of Christ. Those who say that we only need to know Christ and not doctrine obviously do not know what they are saying. To know Christ is to know His mind, His teaching as given in scripture. “Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). This can come about only by learning it from the scripture.

The Bible warns about “strange doctrine” and matter “contrary to sound doctrine” (Heb. 13:9, I Tim. 1:10). To think the thought of God requires a knowledge of his teaching. Contrary to the idea of some charismatics who advise you to “put your mind in neutral and let the Holy Spirit take over,” God requires that we exercise self-control in order to “set (our) minds on things above” (Col. 3:2).

This is why faith is the basic requirement in being restored to God. One does not relate his mind totally to another unless he fully believes and has faith in the other. Adam dropped his full trust in the revelation of God’s mind and placed it in his wife and what Satan had told her. To return to God requires that we renounce such wrong alignment and put our faith totally in the one with Whom we align our minds — hence faith and repentance.

The Christian is not one who is to be know primarily for his wit, a “hail fellow, well met” full of fun and games, but rather as one who is transformed by the “renewing of (his) mind” (Rom. 12:2) full of faith and the holy spirit, who has “the mind of Christ” (I Cor. 2:16).

In the face of the crisis of our times men are being urged to pray for God’s help. “God bless America.” But prayer is of no avail unless there is a basic desire to grasp the Creator’s purpose and be aligned with him in mind and heart. The Pharisee prayed, too. He thanked God for His blessing, that he was better than other men! But there was no indication that he sought to be restored in a real mind-to-mind fellowship with God. The Publican asked for mercy as a sinner. Why would he desire mercy save for the purpose of being restored to this fellowship, to think with God, to know and do His will?

The Christians of this century have a duty exactly like that of the first century Christians: to forsake all other purposes except the purpose of Christ and bear witness to his message of the truth.

It is a duty to be carried out in the face of the obstacles such as those of the first century, oppression by pagan governments and other adverse conditions. We are to remember that in all times and under every circumstance, God’s purpose and his promises have not changed: to have man in his own image, in a mind-to-mind relationship with himself.

Our privilege and our mission is to herald and demonstrate this truth in the Gospel, the good news that man can be restored — that he must be restored — to fellowship with God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

“Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee” (Isa. 26:3).

.....
Copyright © Curtis Dickinson. Formatted and Posted by Ken Fortier Ministries.
Permission is hereby granted by Mrs. Regina Dickinson to reproduce and distribute
Curtis' articles to as many as possible. This statement is to remain attached to this article
for permission to be valid. Vol. XX, Number 8.
.....