

# The mind of Christ (Philippians 2:1-5)

Continued from page 4B  
 replace it. The word that is translated "strife" (v. 3) is eritheia, and it refers to a selfish kind of ambition that does not include the idea of service for others as part of the motivation behind action. It is the kind of selfishness that causes factions and rivalry instead of peace and cooperation.  
 The word "vainglory"

means "empty glory" and refers to a conceited opinion of self. It is a vain attitude that causes a person to look down on others because they are viewed as being inferior. This kind of attitude cannot fulfill the like-mindedness Paul mentioned in verse 2, for it promotes only the self with little or no consideration for others.  
 "Many people—even Christians—live only to make a

good impression on others or to please themselves. But self-centered living, selfish ambition, or conceit brings discord. Paul therefore stressed spiritual unity, asking the Philippians to love one another and to be one in spirit and purpose. When we work together, caring for the problems of others as if they were our problems (v. 4), we demonstrate Christ's example of putting others first,

and we experience unity" (Osborne, ed., Life Application Bible Commentary, Tyndale).

The antidote to selfish living is a humble attitude of willingness to consider others better than ourselves. When that is the case, we will not only have concern for our own interests (which is not inherently a bad thing), but we will

also have a sincere concern about the interests of those around us.  
 4. How are we to exhibit the mind of Christ in the way we live (v. 5)?  
 All of our attitudes should be patterned after the attitudes of Jesus. This is why it is important to study His life; that is the only way to understand what He did.

This is a consistent message in Paul's writings. Earlier Paul warned the Christians in Rome to avoid being "conformed" to the selfish ways of the world. Instead, they were to be "transformed" by having new minds, minds that were in line with the mind of

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Continued from page 4B  
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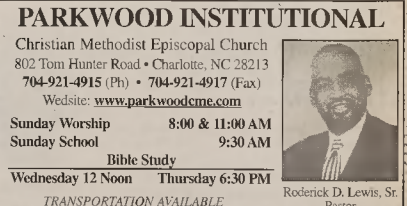
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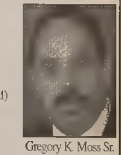
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