



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sermon Series: Welcome to Corinth, Part 3

Sermon Title: Synchronize Your Mind With God

Speaker/ Date: Armin Sommer/ September 30, 2018

1 Corinthians 2:6–16

When we seek move with God, we need to make sure that we synchronize our minds (like gears) to God’s mind.

The Big Idea: You need to synchronize your mind with God’s truth.

1 Corinthians 2 tells us how to synchronize our mind with God’s mind.

Step #1: Recognize It’s Possible (to think with God’s mind)

1 Corinthians 2:16b *But we have the mind of Christ.*

Christians are indwelt by Christ’s Spirit. If you are indwelt by the Spirit of Christ, you then have the mind of Christ. We then determine to think with that mind.

Step #2: Discern Truth from Error

1 Corinthians 2:6–7

Truth and error each have a source.

The Source of Truth

All truth is God’s truth. His truth is uniquely embodied in the scriptures, which have been... *breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.* 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Do you want to walk in truth? Then test every truth claim against the standard of scripture. 1 John 4:1

The Source of Error

Verse 6 speaks of “*wisdom of this age*” and “the *rulers of this age*”. That refers to human ideas, and the beings behind those ideas. Paul uses the term ἄρχων (archon) for rulers. He’s referring to dark spiritual forces that are arranged in a hierarchy. In **Ephesians 6:12** Paul uses the same term when he says our battle is not against flesh and blood but against rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers, referring to the organization of evil spiritual powers.

Paul then goes further. **1 Corinthians 2:8** *None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.* He's not referring only to the human players at the time of Jesus' crucifixion. He again refers to the demonic hierarchy. If they had understood that they were fulfilling God's plan from "*before the ages*" (**1 Cor 2:7**), they would not have inspired the religious leaders or the crowds to call for Jesus' blood.

1 Corinthians 2:9–13 - Paul says "You don't have to speculate about what's true. You can know what is true."

This seems silly to the person who doesn't know the Lord. Why?

1 Corinthians 2:14–15

What is a "natural person"? When God created Adam, He created him as body, soul, and spirit. God warned Adam that if they ate of the tree of the knowl of good and evil, on that very day they would die (**Gen 2:17**). Adam (and Eve) disobeyed, and they died spiritually on that day. From that day forward, every human being is born spiritually dead. We are living souls, but our spiritually dead until indwelt by the Holy Spirit when we trust Jesus Christ.

The mind of Christ utilizes 3 tools.

- **Bible 2 Peter 1:20-21**

The Bible is the principle tool God uses to guide our lives. In the Bible we find precepts (rules) and principles for life.

- **Wise counsel. Proverbs 20:18**

Seek counsel from a person who clearly is under the control of the Holy Spirit with a track record of wisdom.

- **His "still small voice" Isaiah 30:21**

This is the intimacy available to you as a person who knows the Lord. Part of the New Covenant. You will sense the Lord speaking to you.

There are two dangers here: 1st is to perpetually dismiss such inner promptings. The 2nd is to rely too heavily on such moments. Don't use inner promptings as a primary source of guidance. (1) check them against Scripture and wise counsel of 2 or 3 witnesses. And if they don't line up, be careful.

But here's a warning- Obey what you already know. **Proverbs 3:5–6**
As you obey God he gives you more and more insight.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Explain how your daily life is different because your mind is synchronized with God's truth**
- **God's truth is uniquely embodied in the scriptures, which according to 2 Timothy 3:16–17 have been... *breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*. Explain a time when God's word has been profitable in your own life for teaching, reproof, correction, or training in righteousness. When have you seen God's word utilized in another person's life?**
- **In 1 Corinthians 2:6 when Paul refers to the "the rulers of this age", he is referring to dark spiritual forces (evil spiritual powers) that are arranged in a hierarchy. Describe specific ways that you see these evil powers influencing today's culture. Do you think the "rulers" that Paul is speaking about in his day are the same entities that are influencing our world today? How can Christians stand against the rulers of this age?**
- **The plain truth of God's word seems silly to the person who doesn't know the Lord. Explain a time when you saw a person clearly make a choice based upon their own wisdom and not God's. What were the long term effects of that decision in their life?**
- **Have you ever heard God's "still small voice"? How did you know it was God's voice and not your own or the enemy's? How can you test it to be sure? Do you know anyone who seems to rely too much on "God's still small voice" to guide their life? What does that look like?**