



SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

Monday October 7, 2019

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: — Phillipians 2:5

Your Mind

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I don't like the above translation of the Greek language into English as much as I like the King James Version's rendering. The KJV reads, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." I studied koine Greek in Bible School. I did not continue to use what I learned after college.

I dislike our modern worship of "relationships with one another." That's what I find off putting in the NIV translation. The KJV puts the emphasis on choosing to have a mind like that of Christ Jesus. I like that better. Since I'm not a Greek scholar I cannot offer an opinion on which is more faithful to the original Greek. I'll just give you my thoughts. A reader who is a Greek scholar can correct me if I'm way off base.

The KJV was published over four hundred years ago. The NIV was published about a half century ago. Christian intellectuals defend modern translations by referencing discoveries of early copies of fragments of the Bible since the KJV was published. Obviously they have a point. It is surely important to compare all available evidence concerning historical matters.

I don't know if the difference in this verse between the two translations is due to discoveries of fragments in the past four hundred years.

Relationships with one another are less important to me than forming a Christian mind. In fact, the relatively new power of psychology to shape thinking and reason scares me to death. The psychology we value today is shaped overly much by Sigmund Freud's obsessions. It is oriented toward the emotions and hostile to any transcendent realities in the world.

Transcendent is, "beyond or above the range of normal or merely physical human experience." Christianity is nothing if it isn't transcendent. It is primarily transcendent, in fact. Unlike all other religions Christianity posits a supremely personal and emotional God. He is not just transcendent. The word "immanent" is defined as "existing or operating within; inherent." The whole point of Jesus Christ is the transcendent becoming immanent. God became Man. He entered into our ... your ... world. He enters into it today. He exists outside of time. That is a quality of his transcendence.

He is a personal God who is acquainted with your grief, your humanity. He isn't just a deified projection of our human struggles. That is paganism. It isn't Christianity.

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Roman Catholicism's Pope has entered into a bizarre romance with paganism. His Amazon Synod started yesterday in Rome. He is under fire from high ranking theologians in his own Church for crossing the line into heresy with this Synod, his eco-theology and tolerance of all things sinfully sexual oriented.

A few denominations within Protestantism still cling to a reasonable Christian moral sense on sexuality. The so-called conservative denominations appear to be collapsing from the top down. This is driven by a weakened transcendent Christian theological understanding and praxis. In the face of persecution over refusal to uphold high standards on sexuality and the family Christian leaders should be uniquely equipped by an infusion of courage. They are not because they are worldly. We've imagined a modern Christ who is more immanent than He is transcendent.

Since the problem is in our imagination we can overcome by following the admonition in this verse of scripture. We need the mind of Christ. We must get a reign on our own emotions and think rightly. The most important aspect of our relationships with one another is developing a Christian mind. If we must choose one over the other we must choose to have a Christian mind. Without a Christian mind faith and reason are impossible. Right relationships with one another begins with developing a mind like Jesus Christ.

Our emotions are notoriously unreliable, and more easily manipulated than our reason. And our reason is obviously weak due to mankind's fallen state. Christ blazes into our souls with power from on high to steel our reason so that we can suffer for him no matter the condition of our relations or emotions. The will is empowered by reason. It tends to be weakened or softened by the passions.

Christianity is uniquely equipped to confront the consequences of the sexual revolution. This attack on reason is coming onto hard times, thank God. The globalists are going to have to find another mechanism to maintain their control over the unwashed masses. They're working hard on a number of other fronts. Drugs anyone?

God is all powerful. Nothing is going to overcome His love for His creation. Choose to put yourself and your family on His side of this epic struggle between good and evil today. You won't regret it. I promise.

Amen.