

The Christian's Mind – Inside and Out

www.ncvchurch.com

Introduction: What is a Christian?

- A. There are *many ways* to describe a Christian!
 - 1. There also *many false concepts* about the nature of a Christian as well.
 - 2. We do not want to be wrong on this subject! **(Mt 7:21-23)**

- B. Jesus often mentioned *distinguishing marks* of His disciples.
 - 1. They were *complexly dedicated* to His instructions. **(Lk 6:46; Jn 8:31-32)**

 - 2. Jesus died to provide the way for any man to become and live his life under His guidance and care.
 - 3. He wanted all to know the difference between the real and the counterfeit.

I. How does a Christian think?

- A. The sermon on the mount is a full description of *what a true disciple is like!*
 - 1. What Jesus taught was *radically different* from the religious leaders of His day.
 - 2. It starts with one's attitude towards God and finishes with one's attitude and actions towards others. The greatest commandments reflect this truth.
- B. The beatitudes – *the sum of the thoughts of a disciple.* **(Mt 5:3-17)**
 - 1. All of these attitudes must be present in the true disciple.
 - 2. In true conversion, the new Christian starts with all of these thoughts. The essence of repentance brings this kind of start!
- C. What does a disciple think about in the presence of God? **(Mt 5:2-6)**
 - 1. He is *“poor in spirit”* **(5:3)** – This is a poverty of Spirit as one comes to know a holy God. **(Ps 51:17; Isa 64:6)**
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 - 4. He *“hungers and thirsts”* for guidance and fellowship from God. **(5:6)** That guidance and fellowship provide real purpose and peace. **(Jn 4:10, 7:38-39)**
 - 5. These thoughts are the product of one who *seeks daily the presence of God!* **(Heb 11:6; Ps 63:1; 84:1-5)**
- D. What does a disciple think about in *dealing with others?* **(Mt 5:7-16)**
 - 1. He *seeks to be “merciful.”* **(5:7)** – How can he do this? He simply reflects the mind of God that provided his forgiveness! **(Lk 18:13; James 2:13)**
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II. How does a Christian live?

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1. God's written word is to be handled carefully. There can absolutely be no changes made by man! (Mt 5:17-19)
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