

## *The Mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:13-16)*

### I. Introduction

- A. *The parable of the fighting bride*
- B. Review of the broad context of the entire epistle
- C. Review of the immediate context in the pericope (section 2:6-13)
- D. Read the passage and outline of the sermon

### II. Exposition of the text

- A. The wisdom of God in the foolish message of the cross (2:12)
  - 1. A subtle rebuke that comes to full force in 1 Cor 3:1-4
  - 2. This understanding is a gift – not attained by their own wisdom
- B. 1 Corinthians 2:13
  - 1. The Gospel comes in words understood only by spiritual men
  - 2. A verse that is difficult to translate (comp ESV, NASB, KJV)
    - a. *sugkrino* = *compare, combine, or interpret*
    - b. *pneumatikos* = *spiritual things, spiritual words, spiritual men*
      - i. KJV comparing what? (Scripture with Scripture)
      - ii. Matching spiritual thoughts to spiritual people
- C. The natural man cannot understand the Gospel (2:14)
  - 1. Man's complete inability
    - a. failure of the church to understand this doctrine
      - i. Pelagius (4<sup>th</sup> Century)
      - ii. Arminius, Wesley (Reformation era)
      - iii. Charles Finney
      - iv. Baptist, Pentecostal and Emergent practices today
      - v. But Reformed churches???
- D. *He who is spiritual judges all things ... (2:15)*
  - 1. The spiritual man has lived in both realms so he can discern both
- E. 1 Corinthians 2:16 (support from Isaiah 40:13)
  - 1. Isaiah 40 is about God's intention to save His people
  - 2. Isaiah's Yahweh is applied by Paul, to Christ
  - 3. *Spirit* (Hebrew, *ruach*) is translated *mind* (nous) in the Septuagint
  - 4. Paul's exultation in sovereign grace (Rom 11:33-34)
- F. Do you know the mind of the Lord? Are you a Christian?

### III. We have the mind of Christ

- A. WE ... Paul almost seems to be boasting
- B. What does it mean to have the mind of Christ?
  - 1. We understand God's intent in the Gospel and cross
  - 2. We understand how to apply the Scripture to our lives (Ro 12:2)
- C. The unfortunate history of application of this text
  - 1. spiritual elitism and Christian "classes"
- D. *The mind of Christ* is the key to unity in the church
  - 1. Rom 15:5,6, 2 Cor 13:11-14, Phil 1:27-28, 2:2, 1 Pet 3:8
- E. *The mind of Christ* embodies humility and service (Phil 2:2-8)