

GET THE MIND OF CHRIST

ARTICLE 4

Stop thinking about yourself; start thinking of others. Christians must lead in courtesy. What do Christ and the apostles say about courtesy?

A good foundation for all courtesy lies in Paul's comments to the Philippians. "*Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:3-5, NKJV).

So how do we gain the mind of Christ? First empty yourself of yourself. Shrink the amount of thinking you do about yourself. When your self-esteem shrivels to dry leaves, you're beginning to reach the lowliness of Christ.

Second, fill your mind with thoughts about others. Find your way into their lives, find out what makes them comfortable, what encourages them, what makes them want to be around you.

Are there other words from Christ about this? Of course. From Leviticus and Matthew: *Love your neighbor as yourself*. From Matthew: *Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them*.

Trace out the life of Jesus. Follow Christ. He emptied himself so completely for others that there was nothing left; he was dead.