

# The Mind Of Christ

Vs.

# The Mark of the Beast

by Andy Nonymousman

## The Mark of the Beast

Many believe that the mark of the beast will be a computer chip placed under the skin of the hand or in forehead, which will be the main means of transferring funds. Now while it is true that the world seems to be headed that direction, it must be said that there is a mindset that accept the mark. That mindset is being forced to into the minds of the people even now. The computer chip is the final stage of accepting that mindset.

The mindset that we speak of is conformity to the world's thinking as opposed to the truths of the Bible.

As Romans 12:20 says, we must "be not conformed to this world but be transformed by renewing of the mind ye may prove that what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of the God."

If we continue in God's word, we will know the truth and the truth will make us free. However, the opposite is also true. If we do not continue in His word, we will know the lies, falsehoods, and traditions of the world and will be enslaved by the mind of the world, which places the mark in our minds and makes itself manifest through the works of our hands.

## Traits of the Mark

How can we know if one is being marked by the mark of the beast? The answer is found in Revelation 13 as we compare it with the Scriptures of Daniel. In Revelation 13:1 and 2 we read the following:

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw the beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

And the beast, which I saw, was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat and great authority.

We notice that this beast is like a leopard, feet of the bear, mouth of the lion, and the power of the dragon. The dragon is identified as the old serpent, known as the devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world. But to find the answer as the other characteristics we must go back to Daniel 8, verses 1 through 7.

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

Daniel spoke and spoke and said, I saw my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and stand upon the feet as a man's heart was given to it.

And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo, another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given unto it.

After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Now notice that the lion, leopard, and bear are all mentioned. In verse 15 through 25 we read.

15, I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head trouble me. 16, I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. 17, these great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. 18, But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever. 19, Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all others, exceeding dreadful, those teeth were of iron and his nails of brass; which devoured, break in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; 20, And of the ten horns that wherein his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spoke very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. 21, I beheld and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 22, Until the ancient of days came, and judgment was given unto the four saints of the most high; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. 23, Thus he said, the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and

shall tread it down, and shall break it in pieces. 24, And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. 25, And he shall speak great words against the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hands until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Notice especially verse 17. Theses great beasts which are four are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. This reminds us of Daniel chapter 2 in which there are four kings that arise. Let look at Daniel chapter 2 verse 31-35. It reads,

31, Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. 32, This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass. 33, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. 34, Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hand, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and break them into pieces. 35, Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces, together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Now for the interpretation of the dream, look at verse 36.

36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. 37 Thou, O kind, at a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a Kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 38 And wherever the children of men dwell, the beast of the field and the fowls of heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. 39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. 40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: for as a much as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. 41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, for as much as thou sawest the iron mixed with clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is mixed with clay. 44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

We notice Nebuchadnezzar, the head of gold, and he was the king of Babylon. Following Babylon were the Medes and Persians were the Greeks and following the Greeks was Rome. So now we can see by comparison of the two visions that the gold equals the lion with eagles wings which equals Babylon. The silver equals the bear, which equals Medes and Persia. The bronze equals the leopard, which equals Greece and iron equals the beast with iron teeth, which equals Rome. The

characteristics of all four kingdoms. So what are these characteristics or what were these traits?

#### MEDAL KINGDOM ANIMAL

Gold Babylon Lion with eagle wings

Silver Medes Persian Bear

Bronze Greece Leopard

Iron Rome Beast with iron teeth

#### Babylon

False Religion

One of the things we see in Babylon is false religion. Nebuchanezzar makes a statue and requires everyone to worship it or he will cast them into furnace of fire. There are today false religious systems seeking to water down the gospel to obey their rules and traditions that are not of God.

#### An Industrial City

Babylon was also great city where special engineering feats were displayed. Today the industrial world and technology has a major impact on the lives of vast members of people of the world.

#### Medes and Persia

Compromise

Always the Medea/Persian's empire rule was a compromise with the people conquered in order to keep them in compliance and loyal to the empire. Today there is a spirit of compliance and compromise of ones standard and principles to get along with the ruling authority.

#### Money

Apparently the use of coins was mainly begun also during this period of time. Money and its control will be one of the things that denominate the beast system. "He causes all both small and great, free and bond to receive a mark in their right hand, or their forehead that no man may buy or sell say he that had the mark of the beast on the number of his name." We have today library cards, identification cards, computerized magnetic tapes, and computer chips and marks, which equals numbers, which stand for the names of the individuals who carry them. Some of these are now being used to buy and sell.

#### Greece

The Greeks founded some of the first governmental false worship systems based on a republic and a degree of democracy and they worshipped false gods including Diana and Aphrodite.

Today republics and democracies are rewarded and other forms of government are frowned upon. These people are taught to believe that

republics and democratic forms of government are the best and also the safest for people to have. And yet these forms of government are not best because a theocratic form of government is the best. God's rule is better than man's rule, however, people are brainwashed into believing that the majority rule is best and then the majority are brainwashed into believing they can make their own guidelines, own rules, their own laws, even though they are in opposition to God's laws.

#### The Worship of goddesses

The Greeks and Romans worshipped goddesses. Today the woman is exalted in Western society, which is spreading its influence around the world. In the United States women are in control of most marriages. This is based on statistics that now say that in up to 75% of all households, the woman controls the money. Someone said "give the control over a nations money and I care not who makes its laws." In addition, court systems have given women the power to control by no fault divorce laws, which give a woman the right to divorce a man for any reason. And she will usually get the home, children, and one fourth to one half the income of the ex husband for up to the next 18 years. Because the government now controls marriage, an institution, which was instituted by God and should only be governed by His laws, women now control men, through threat of divorce and taking his children and much of his wealth and future income.

#### Rome

Rome perhaps even more than its predecessors has the spirit of world control. It conquered and ruled all people. Today there is still very much in evidence the spirit of world rule and domination and its merging through the United Nations, and the European union and what was originally called the G7 Nations.

G7 stood for the group of seven nations, which were the most industrialized nations of the world. These seven headed up the group. They included:

#### The United States

Canada  
England  
France  
Germany  
Italy  
Japan

It is interesting that the Bible in Revelation 13 speaks of the beast with seven heads and ten horns. We might take note that at these meetings there are now also representatives from Russia, the World Bank, and the Vatican. This makes seven heads and ten horns and also includes government, money, and religion. These are the three factors that will control in the last days and through these three, people are being given the mark or the mind of the beast.

#### Government

We are told the nations can no longer be sovereign but must be part of the New World order in which nations became states in a world government. This world government is making rules under the guise of human's rights, which violates God's laws on marriage, and raising children, sodomy and murder, that is abortion and other things. The people are being indoctrinated that they must comply with the law. Romans 13 is also quoted "Let every soul be subject to the higher powers" and therefore even believers can ease their consciences when they go against God's laws and rules of conduct because they are obeying the government. Unfortunately few ever counter this statement with Scriptures, which clearly says in Acts 4:9 and Acts 5:29 "we ought to obey God rather than man." When man's laws are in conflict with God's law, those with the mind of Christ will obey God's law. Those that are being marked by the beast will yield to man's law. Let's each ask ourselves, do I have the mind of the Christ, or am I being marked by the Beast?

#### Part of Iron and Part of Clay

In Daniel 2:41-43 it indicates that the final kingdom is part of iron and part of clay. Let us look at that passage once again:

41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, for as much as thou sawest the iron mixed with clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is mixed with clay.

The explanation is that this final worldly kingdom will partly be strong and partly broken. In verse 48 it says "they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men" the "they" here has to be fallen angels that are very strong and very powerful. Notice in Daniel chapter 10 an angel fights the prince of Persia for 21 days and has to have the help of Michael the archangel to help get the message through Daniel. This means that there are prince-level fallen angels that have ruled over each successive world empire.

Now today, they are intertwined to rule over the world in an evil canopy seeking to control the entire planet while they mingle themselves with men who are open to their evil. Through their combined efforts of false religion, money (which translate into influence especially through the use of various media) and government (which control directly and influences through education), these spirits are marking the majority of mankind with the mark or mind of the beast.

The average western believer in Jesus Christ has one to three hours a week of so called Christian education, prayer and worship. Yet in that same believer's life, he spends thirty hours in government controlled schooling which is mandated to teach against God's commands. Or he or she may be working 40 hours a week in environments that mandate or encourage acceptability of things, which are an abomination to God. In addition, each may spend another twenty one to thirty hours a week in front of the modern idol, the television. Through this monstrosity images that move and speak (preach) and teach the acceptability of sin and therefore reverse or suspend the oracles of God.

The influence of this canopy of evil prince level spirits has not just begun but has been ongoing for centuries. After they captured the church (by combining Roman government with Christianity over a period of time), it was said that the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church were equal to Scriptures. These false and contradictory doctrines have been spread throughout nearly one fourth of the world's population, which are directly connected to the modern Roman Empire. In addition, although elements of light have broken through the darkness through Mark Luther and others who have broken away, many of them have brought along with them unknowingly some of the false traditions that bind men and women and rob them of the fruit God desires.

It will only be those that will commit themselves to being true disciples of Jesus Christ that will put on the mind of the Christ and be strong enough to resist the mark of the beast. These, like the saints of old, will be true to God and His word even if they suffer persecution and hardship, and even death.

Questions to ask yourself:

Am I such a person?

When faced with truth, will I follow truth or will I follow tradition?

Will I accept truth in theory but insist on tradition in practice?

Can I withstand peer pressure and be true to God?

Will I stand with God even if it costs me my wife, my children, my house, my possession and more?

To put on the mind of Christ and resist the mark and the mind of the beast, one must be able to give the correct answer to all those questions.

A Great Falling Away

II Thessalonians chapter 2:1-3

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him.

That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, nether by spirit nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that day of Christ is at hand.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, our gathering together to him and the day of Christ will not come until there is a falling away first. Many believers are falling already but don't know it. If you accept the notion that sexual relations outside marriage are all right among consenting adults, you are falling away. If you think a woman has a right to choose to have an abortion because she should have power over her own body, you are falling away. If you think the church should submit itself to the government, you are falling away. If you accept the idea that the government should control marriage, you are falling

away. To accept such things as being true is a good indication that one is falling away from God and is putting on the mind and mark of the beast. Accepting a computer chip, which indicates that you serve the one world leader at that time would just be the final step. Only if one puts on the mind of Christ can one truly resist the mark of the beast.

#### Halloween

Witches, ghosts, goblins, demons, other things designed to cause fear are exalted at Halloween. It is also known that this is a time when Satanists are offering human sacrifice to Satan all across the country and yet so called Christians willing participate in this satanically inspired, unholy day. Why? On the surface it's tradition, peer pressure. Underneath of course, there are unclean spirits attached to the evil canopy of spirits who are pushing people as they seek to pull people down into the mind of the beast and away from the mind of Christ. Those who refuse to participate or won't allow their children to participate and go trick or treating are often unconsidered heartless people who are denying their children the joys of childhood. These who support such things do not realize that they are doing the devil's work. When giving a choice between truth or tradition, many if not most, would choose tradition and run from truth. How sad.

#### Christmas

Light, trees and Santa Claus and the expectation that everyone gets lots of presents from their relatives and friends. : But it's just fun" they say as numerous parents lie to their children about a red suited fat man from the North Pole riding on a flying sleigh pulled by reindeer. Many spend all their money and borrow even more to make sure that they are not guilty of failing to provide the appropriate amount and quality of gifts to people in their lives who expect this lavishness. As they borrow from the world to satisfy the need to be appreciated and accepted, whose servants do they become? A Scripture in Proverbs says "the borrower shall be a servant to the lender." It is obvious to do such things is to make them servants to the world. Meanwhile, the merchants of the world who relish this most are remaining rich. Is this type of thinking and behavior characteristics of the mind of mark of the beast?

#### Easter

Most historians agree that Easter is derived from a pagan practice of worshipping the goddess of spring. Easter eggs and bunny rabbits have nothing to do with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Still, the tradition of associating such things with the resurrection is so strong that most believers cannot pull themselves away from them. Through peer pressure and the pull of tradition, they are pulled along by hidden, unclean spirits who revel in being worshipped by Christians even if they don't know they are doing so. They keep many believers bound in the mind or mark the beast.

#### Solution

In the mind of Chris there is a solution to poverty. "There were none among them who had lack." In the mind of Christ there are solutions for single Christian women who want to be married. In the mind of Christ there is a solution for the care of the fatherless. To have these solutions we must be willing to feed completely on God's word and be fed by His Spirit. In this way we are transformed by the renewing of our minds. We must then read the word of God, live it out (that is, be doers of the word of God), and then teach the truth of the word of God to others.

Some are willing to read, but not study. Reading and only takes us so far. Some are willing to read and study, but not memorize. That takes one further, yet not far enough. Some are willing to read, study, memorize, but not mediate on God's word. This is still better, but not sufficient. Some are willing to read, study, memorize, and mediate on God's word, but still fall short of being doers. This is how we put on the mind of Christ, and yet even after we have done all this we take next step and teach others to take to put on the mind of Christ and thereof be resistant to the mark, or mind of the beast.

#### The Money Connection

Automatic deposits are becoming the primary method of payment today of salaries with many large companies and with government workers. It is less paper work they say. It is easier they say. Yes. And it is also steering people away from checks and currency and training them to accept the concept that financial transactions are best taken care of by computer and automatic transfer of funds.

Debit cards are now being touted as being safer and more convenient than carrying cash. All one needs to do is swipe the card through the machine and instantly money is transferred from the customer's account in his bank to the stores account in their bank. Why fuss with coins and currency? Never mind the fact that now one's purchases can be traced. Speed pass at Mobile gas stations help you to move quickly and pay at the pump and not have to see attendant at the station, just put the device on your key ring in and with it you save all the time you would have had to take to pay the cashier. You are quickly on your way. Never mind that they are training you to look for ease and quickness and subtly socializing people to accept the next step, which will easily be a computer chip placed in the right hand or the forehead.

One web site on the Internet already touts the fact that it was the first patent on what they are calling the Digital Angle. Apparently not only will the computer chip transfer funds for you, but it will also have access to all medical records and can be used as a locating device so someone can always find you.

As the beast system works vigorously towards getting people to accept these new devices, they are preparing their minds to accept the mark of the beast without which one cannot buy or sell. What happens is currency if eliminated and outlawed? What happens when the automatic transfer of finances by computer chips is the only means of transacting business? The world government and its supreme leader then will have

access to purchases of all peoples as well as the whereabouts of all people. Those who do not swear allegiance to the world government and its supreme leader will be refused a computer chip. These rebellious ones against the system will be called rebels, dissidents, cultists, outlaws and once they are tagged as outlaws it is obvious that they should be imprisoned and perhaps for the good of society. Who will they go after?

They will be out to get those that have the mind of Christ, for these are the ones that will not submit to a government that is against God. At present they are called right wing fanatics. These right wing fanatics believe that a life is more important than a woman's right to choose, and therefore they are against abortion. The right wing fanatics believe that sodomy, homosexuality is sin, therefore will not be quiet and accept it as an alternate lifestyle.

The national election of 2000 in the United States shows that there are slightly more than half of the country that are already accepting the doctrines of evil and that they are opposed to God in these areas. Unfortunately, many of these claim to be believers and they have begun to fall away and most don't even realize it yet.

How will those with the mind of Christ avoid or resist the new financial exchange systems? They will seek God's supernatural intervention, wisdom, and protection and they will be like those men and women of faith of old who "wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth" Hebrews 11:38. How many will be willing to grow into the mind of Christ even if this is where it takes them. Ask yourself the question: Am I willing?

#### Fruit Worthy of Repentance

In Matthew chapter 3:2 we see that John the Baptist preaching "repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand." In Matthew 4:7 Jesus continued the same message of preaching in saying, "repent for the kingdom of God is at hand." To repent means to change directions, to turn around, to stop doing wrong and do what is right. In Luke chapter 3:8 John the Baptist say to "bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance." In other words if there is true repentance there should be change of behavior showing that fruit. It goes on to give some examples. In verse 10 the people ask, "what should we do?" the answers: "Him that has two coats let him impart to him that has none. He that has meat let him do likewise." John the Baptist in essence is saying, he that has things that can be shared should share those things. This is the essence of loving your neighbor as yourself. Many say, "yes, amen, we should share those good things we have that God allows us to share. "But when it comes down to actuality, are we doing that? Many fall short and become very possessive of the things they think they have a right to keep as their own. If we are to enter the mind of Christ rather than the mind of the beast, we must begin with true repentance, which is associated with fruits worthy of repentance.

#### Fruit of Perfection

In Luke chapter 8 we find the parable of the sower we see that some end up being wayside ground while there are those who allow the devil to take away the truth of the word from their hearts. Then there are those on the stony ground or rocky ground. These are the people who, when

they hear the word, receive the word with joy. While they have no root for themselves, they believe for a while and with time and temptation they fall away. The Matthew passage says, "for when tribulation and persecution arise because of the word by and by he is offended."

We should know that the tribulation and persecution will come because of the word. If one is not deeply rooted in the word and if one does not have the word deeply rooted in himself, he will fall way when tribulation and persecution comes the cause of the word.

Now lets look at the thorny ground in Luke 8:14 and that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. The cares of this life and the desires of riches and pleasures can indeed hinder our bringing forth the fruit to perfection. How can we possibly expect to put on the full mind of Christ if we are selfishly bound to pleasures and the desires of riches? Of course the answer is, we cannot. To make sure that we are not bound to such things and if we are to go on with the Lord, then we must be good ground and put on the mind of Christ and thereby reject the mind and the mark of the beast. With the mind of Christ our fruit is brought to perfection.

#### The Fellowship of His Suffering

In Philippians 3:10, Paul say that "I may know him," and the word now here in the Greek has the meaning of intimate knowledge, "and the power of his resurrection." We will not know that power unless we come into an intimate believe that to truly know Him that is Christ intimately, it will only be as we come to the fellowship of his sufferings. This means many of the things Christ suffered, we too will experience in one way or another. Let's take an example:

When Jesus spoke the truth, many of his followers stopped following him. See John 6:66, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." When Jesus was taken away to be crucified even the twelve fled. See Mark 15:50, "And they all forsook him and fled." We see the same thing happening to Paul at the end of ministry. See second Timothy 4:16, "At my first answer no man stood with me but all men forsook me." As we go on with God and obey his commandments we will often find that even our closest friends will forsake us as we are led into the place where God would have us. We suffer the loss of friends and even relatives. We experience the same type of suffering that Christ experienced, but in the process we are also gaining the power of his resurrection and we put on the mind of Christ.

#### Seduction Spirits and Doctrines of Devils

"Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the later times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to deducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." I Timothy, 4:1 There are numerous seducing spirits and doctrines of devils today. Some are very obvious such as "a woman has a write to choose what she does with her own body," which is a disguise for murdering her own unborn babies. Others are much more subtle and have such long-standing traditions that very few people even recognize it. In the next few verses it mentions forbidding to marry. Isn't it interesting that the government has taken over the institution of

marriage and grants licenses for people to married, or not, as it chooses.

And look at the perverseness of allowing the government to grant divorces under conditions that it decides, many of which are in conflict with the word of God. Marriage is an institution of God and it should be only governed by God's rules. The government should have no say whatsoever, but as people, even Christians, have been indoctrinated to trust and believe in government they wouldn't dare marry without the government's sanctions. Little by little, seducing spirits indoctrinate us into these doctrines of devils that the government is above God. Those that seek to put on the mind of Christ will resist the pressure to make government a god and will no longer submit to government when it conflicts with that which God has ordained. Jesus said "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's." Marriage belongs to God. So do rules regarding divorce.

The Greatest of These

There are at least three words in the Greek Language for love Agape, the type of love God has for us.

Phileo, a type we have for family members.

Eros, or sensual, akin to what we call romantic love.

Eros is never used in our Bibles. We are encouraged to aspire to Agape love, which is described in detail in 1 Corinthians 13. Reading from the complete Jewish Bible, it says:

I may speak in tongues of men, and even angels, but if I lack love I become merely a blaring brass or a symbol playing. I may have the gift of prophesy, I may fathom all mysteries, know all things, have all faith, enough to move mountains, but if I lack love, I am nothing. I may give everything I own I may hand over my body to be burned, but if I lack love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind, not jealous, not boastful, not proud, rude, or selfish, not easily angered and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love always bears up, always trusts, always hopes, and always endures. Love never ends. The prophecies will pass. When I was a child I spoke like a child, thought like a child, argued like a child. Now that I have become a man I have finished with childish ways. For now we see obscurely in a mirror, for then it will be face to face. Now I know partly, then I will know fully just as God has fully known me. But for now three things last: trust, hope, and love. The greatest of these is love.

Until one matures into Agape, love of God, as manifested by characteristics mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13, one dare not say that he has matured fully and has fully put on the mind of Christ.

Love is Patient

Love is patient. One who has developed true Agape love in his life is one who is patient. He is one who has developed the ability to suffer long. He is one that can persevere through trials and he is one that is patient with the imperfections of others. How does one acquire this trait of patience? The Scriptures tell us that "tribulation worketh patience." See Romans 5:3 "So God will allow us to go through some trials so that this aspect of agape love can be manifest in our lives."

### Love is Kind

One who has Agape love is kind to people. He is not one who puts people down. He is one who is caring. He is one encourages rather than discourages. He is one who is gentle with people, as opposed to being harsh and demanding. Kindness is one more trait at which we can look, to determine if we are putting on the love of God and the mind of Christ.

### Love is not

Love is not jealous. For as one grows into agape love, he is not jealous of others. There is no desire to compete for dominance and position, and one is willing to share those things, which God would have shared. If one is suffering from envy and jealousy, he or she should seek God, asking for His grace and rule in agape love, that may be rid of such negative emotions and put on the mind of Christ.

### Love is not Boastful

As we grow in Agape love, love is not the kind that brags and boast of what he or she has or she thinks that he or she is. Such boasting is based on pride. God hates a proud look. See Proverbs, "And God resists the proud." See 1 Peter Chapter 5, "Since God hates pride and boasting, and boasting is based on pride, boasting is obviously goes against the nature that God desires to develop in us." One who is boastful has not yet put on the mind of Christ.

### Love is Not Proud

One of Satan's flaws was pride. Satan is the adversary and his nature is of pride. That nature is the antitheses of Agape love that God desires us to have. "The pride of life is not of the Father, but of the world." To have the mind of Christ rather than the mind or mark of the beast, one must leave aside pride.

### Love is Not Rule or Selfish

Even many believers are rude to people in service position or those who think they have less status than they do. This shows that they are still carnal and have not yet grown to true spiritual maturity. Others may be ever so polite to almost all they encounter until the situation requires that they share something they believe that they have the right to possess as all their own. Sharing shows maturity. If more believers could mature and put on the mind of Christ, the affliction of many widows, the fatherless, and the poor could be eased. Let us seek to mature, and grow into the mind of Christ and share those things that the Bible indicates can be shared.

### Love is Not Easily Angered

There are those that get easily angry at the least little thing. A glance that is perceived as wrong or perceived slight, a word that seems to be a bit offensive can cause some people to be greatly angered

and to break off communication. Such believers, who are so easily angered, are reflecting their carnality and exposing the fact that they are still babes in Christ. When we truly grow in God and God's Agape love, and the mind of Christ, we are not easily angered. The Scriptures says in Ephesians 4:26, "Be ye angry, and sin not." We should not let the sun go down on our wrath, we should deal with the issue, otherwise we give place to the devil. Now how do we deal with the issue? Well, it tells us in Matthew chapter 18:

15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: If he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witness every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and publican.

And so there is a way to deal with perceived "outrights," and we need to get them taken care of quickly, lest they mount up and lest they accumulate and end up in a type of explosion and separation from the brotherhood. Many marriages fail because they do not do this very thing. They let the sun go down on their wrath, they accumulate wrongs, they think of them over a long period of time and they make a record of wrongs. But the Scripture says, "love keeps no record of wrongs." In counseling married couples over the years, one party or the other often times will keep a detailed mental record of all the wrongs that the other party has committed. If we handle our problems and conflicts as they arise and forgive those trespasses and go on, many of the great difficulties would never be there because we had cleansed the slate, so to speak. Each day we would clean the slate and go on with a fresh page as it were.

Love keeps no record of wrongs. If we are truly seeking to move in Agape love, the record keeping will cease. And if we truly expect to have the mind of Christ, it must cease.

#### Love Does not Gloat Over Other People's Sins

Gossip and gloating go together. When one gloats over another's sins, he almost invariably begins to gossip about it and as the gossip is shared from one to another, the supposed sin or error is often magnified. Again, this tendency to gloat and gossip is initiated by Satan and his hordes of unclean and evil spirits because they fell because of pride and they are liars and accusers of the brother. Those steeped in the mind of the beast allow and perpetuate the gossip and the gloating. Those seeking the mind of Christ put a stop to it.

#### Love Endures; Love Never Ends

In a close knit family there is a filial or family love that each member has for the other. They may argue, they may disagree, but that filial love is always there. They can count on one another because they are family, and that love, that filial love is there for one another.

It has been said that "blood is thicker than water." It's is meant by this that people who are blood relatives look out for one another. If

that is true, we should also be able to say that spirit is thicker than blood. I mean by this, that when we have true Agape love we look out for the brother in the Lord. We don't give up on them easily. We are continually seeking to help build up each other and we rejoice in each other's triumph.

A Scripture says in Corinthians 12:25-26, "That there should be no schism in the body, that the member should have the same care one for another and when one member suffers, all members suffer with him. When one member is honored, all members rejoice in their achievement." Love endures. It endures hurts, endures wrongs, endures pain. Why? Because "love shall cover a multitude of sins" as it says in 1 Peter 4:8.

Let us seek to move into real Agape love, only then are we truly putting on the mind of Christ.

Choices

We each have a choice. We can choose to seek to put on the mind of Christ. That will not always be easy. Following God's word will lead into conflicts with the world. Needless to say, in the long run, it is well worth it.

On the other hand, we can choose to accept the mind of the beast, which will lead us to the mark of the beast. To do this all we need to do is to be conformed to the world, its evils, its traditions and thereby we gain its acceptance.

My prayer is that you, dear reader, will choose the mind of Christ