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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Having the Same Mind.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Having the same Mind.

What does having the same mind mean? Some would say that it means we should all be of exactly the same doctrine, theology and understanding of the Bible and if we are not then we cannot be of the same mind and therefore must separate and divide. This article examines whether this is a true statement or did Paul have something else in mind when he said, “have the same mind.”

Paul says, “Make no provision for self, ego and pride let everyone agree that there will be no divisions so that that everyone will be united in the same mind and the same judgment (Rom. 13:13-14) (1 Cor. 1:10). Having the same mind does not necessarily have to mean, everyone has to agree to every detail of doctrine.

Having the same mind means: if the head of any organization or authority of a church realizes and teaches that wherever there are people gathered together there will always be various and different viewpoints of some verses of the Bible. Having the same mind is not about everyone holding exactly the same doctrinal understandings, but about accepting that some people who are faithful to God and trusting in Christ will vary on different details of Scripture.

When each member of a group, assembly or church realize, accept and understand this reality and collectively make a decision to accept each other with their differences that are not important to salvation they are then all of the same mind, meaning they all agree to accept that there will be differences amongst each individual member of the group.

NOTE: not all Scripture is important to salvation, some is about behaviour, a great deal covers history some is about church or cultural customs and traditions while many others are simply revealing the vanity of living without God and how those that belong to Christ should live. Much more of what we hear is simply human speculations or our own human assumptions, they may be good speculations and good assumptions but we must recognise that they are not, “Thus sayest the LORD.”

Having the same mind is about each individual of the group, the assembly or the church, making a collective decision to accept that others within the same group may vary in some areas of Scripture that are not important to salvation.

Ponder the following thoughts for a moment.

During the time of Acts everything was new, there were no religious organizations, institutions, church buildings or denominations, the churches were in homes and consisted of a vast mixture of cultures, religious people, people who hardly even knew Scripture, rich and well to do people and beggars and needy people.

In the early church there were faithful Jews who had been indoctrinated for four-thousand years in the Law of Moses and the Old Covenant, these Jews looked on Gentiles as an unclean race without God. Imagine for a moment the difference in doctrinal belief and interpretation of Scripture these two groups would have had within their churches.

There were Jews who had been raised according to Jewish laws and customs coming together with Gentiles who had no knowledge of the Old Testament or Jewish history. One of Paul's greatest struggles was constantly trying to stop the converted Jews bringing the new Gentile converts back under Jewish Law (Gal. 3).

It is easy to see why Paul's was saying, “hey guys let's be all of one mind, let's recognize that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ and based on this foundation we all belong to the family of God. Let's agree to allow each other to grow as an individual and understand that we all come from different backgrounds, experiences and knowledge, because of this it is going to take some time for each one of us to come to the full understanding of Scripture so let's all agree to show each other some mercy, tolerance and grace so that we all can all arrive as one body and one nation in Christ together.

SUMMARY: if each member of the group, assembly or church agrees and is willing to accept that there will be various and different views in the detail of Scripture then in this agreement they are all of the same mind, even though they may not all agree on the same things.

Being of the same mind is more about humility, grace, mercy, and patience contrasted to being driven by self, ego and pride, when these three are ruling and controlling an individual, especially if they are controlling the authority or leader of a group, church or organization there is no hope of their ever being one mind, because self wants its own way, to have one mind humility must be the dominate spirit and not pride, ego or self.

Having the same mind is more about, patience, grace, mercy, understanding, kindness, tolerance, forgiveness and acceptance than it is about having every detail of doctrine exactly the same.

End.